


# MILFORD LIVE

photo link: Marcia Reed

 MilfordLive

 @Milfordlive

**SUBSCRIBE** 

**August 22, 2023**  
**Vol. 13 • Issue 34**

- Headlines .....2
- Culture.....5
- Business .....8
- Government & Politics ..... 15
- Education.....21
- Health .....25
- Sports.....27
- In Memoriam.....29
- Stay Connected ..... 31



Specialty Candy Store to Open



Public Hearing Planned for Strategic Plan



Services Planned for Robert "Bobby" Walls

# HEADLINES



photo link: Marcia Reed

# SPECIALTY CANDY STORE TO OPEN IN DOWNTOWN MILFORD

BY TERRY ROGERS



Melissa Stewart, owner of The Stewart's Freeze-Dried Goodies, plans to bring fun sweets to downtown Milford. Currently selling her unique items online and at a few retail locations in town, Stewart

was approached by Zack and Marissa King who own the former Josephine Keir building on Walnut Street about opening a brick and mortar store in one of the four retail spaces they are creating.

“When they asked if I was interested, I said ‘of course,’ not realizing how much work would go into this,” Stewart, who is the manager at EasySpeak, also owned by the Kings, said. “But the freeze-dried community has taken off so big, I felt like I had to do it. It’s going to add something to downtown Milford for the kids. I really want to do something specifically for kids because there’s not a lot in town here for kids to try. Of course, parents, too, but I am trying to create something kids will love.”

Stewart got started in the freeze-dried business when she put one candy bar in her freeze dryer in December, stating she got the idea from TikTok. She began trying many different candies and foods, from Airheads to Sour

Patch Kids and Skittles. She has even offered oatmeal pies, Twinkies, pickles and more. Currently, her sales are online although she did provide them to a few stores in town, including Not Too Shabby who have posted on social media that they regularly sell out of her items.

“Once I open here, I am not putting items in other places,” Stewart said. “I will still do some online because I do have customers who order from me on a regular basis and want them shipped, so I will have that option available. But unfortunately, I will need to cut down on some items. I’m at around 36 right now and I won’t be able to carry all of them.”

Not only will Stewart offer her freeze-dried specialties, she also plans to carry gourmet candies and chocolates as well as candy and caramel apples. There will also be some old-fashioned candies available in the store. Although she has not confirmed the hours she will be open, her goal is to remain open later for those who work and need more flexible hours.

“It would be nice to have things open later downtown,” Stewart said. “So I plan to stay open during the week until six or seven. On weekends, maybe as late as eight. We’ve got all these new places coming in down here to attract people who don’t want to travel all the way to the beach. I want to bring some of the stuff people now have to travel to the beach or somewhere else to get. I mean,

see page 4



## BA-DA-BA-BA-BA BIG OPPORTUNITY.



JOIN OUR TEAM

**DELAWARE LIVE**  
OUR STATE. OUR NEWS. OUR HOME.

“  
**Our ads change  
at the pace of our  
business needs**”

- SOUTHERN STATES

from page 3

if you want a candy apple, you have to wait for the fair each year, so we hope to bring some special, fun stuff to downtown Milford. Hopefully, that will bring more traffic downtown.”

The biggest challenge to opening the store has been paperwork and inspections. She has also struggled with what she wants to display and how she wants to display it. Her goal is to make the store bright and cheery.

“The thing I am most looking forward to is meeting some of my online customers,” Stewart said. “A lot of them are local and I do meet them sometimes when they buy the freeze-dried items, but I’ve not met nearly half of them. So, it’s going to be fun, actually. Of course, I am also looking forward to new customers who have never had it or tried the unique stuff we will have in the store.”

Stewart will create special orders for those who need them as well. “I have Laffy Taffy and Now and Later, Airheads, they come in all different flavors and I usually just do a mixed bag,” Stewart said. “But if somebody requests, I can give them every flavor but banana if they are like ‘I am allergic to banana’ or ‘I just want the blue ones’ So, special orders are possible.”

Currently, The Stewart’s Freeze-Dried Goodies is not hiring. Stewart’s 23-year old daughter will manage the store as the only full-time employee at first. Stewart, her husband and their younger son will also work there, so the store will be completely family operated. The store is still undergoing renovations, but Stewart hopes to open in the fall. The store will be located in the former Keir building whose address was 27 S. Walnut Street in Milford.



**SOUTHERN STATES**  
Farmer owned since 1923.

**Mon-Fri 7am-5pm**  
**Sat 7am-Noon**



**302-422-8066**  
**info@milfordsouthernstates.com**



**mahindra**  
**SUMMER**  
**SALES EVENT**

**0%** **FOR 84**<sup>MO</sup>  
AND ZERO DOWN

— NOW ON MAX, eMAX, —  
1626 AND MORE!



**TRIFECTA**  
**SALES EVENT**

**SPECIAL SAVINGS**

**WARRANTY RESTART**

Purchase select mowers to restart the warranty clock on April 1, 2024.

**0% FOR 48 MONTHS\***

or No Interest until April, No Payment until May

\*For additional options, visit [exmark.com/Finance-Offers](http://exmark.com/Finance-Offers)

Now through 10/31/23

**SOUTHERN STATES MILFORD CO-OP**  
7308 Williamsville Road  
Milford, DE 19963  
PH: 302-422-8066  
Hours: Mon-Fri 7am-5pm; Sat 7am-Noon  
Visit our FB page  
[www.facebook.com/ssmilfordcoop/](http://www.facebook.com/ssmilfordcoop/)  
[www.MilfordSouthernStates.com](http://www.MilfordSouthernStates.com)  
[info@milfordsouthernstates.com](mailto:info@milfordsouthernstates.com)



# CULTURE



photo link: [Second Street Players](#)



# LOCAL BARBER HIKES APPALACHIAN TRAIL

BY TERRY ROGERS

Norman Smith, owner of Norman’s Deluxe Barber-shop and Shave Parlor, recently completed a hike of the Appalachian Trail. According to Smith, he thought the idea of hiking the trail sounded “cool.”

“I can’t really recall when that was, but it’s always been one of those ‘I’d like to do that someday’ kind of things,” Smith said. “Back in November, I went on a solo hike on a section of the trail in Pennsylvania where I hurt my legs hiking too fast. I began to worry that my legs might be starting to go bad and if I did not do this soon, I may never be able to do it.”

Born and raised in Milford, Smith also worked at Baltimore Air Coil for 20 years and has owned the barbershop for the past six years. He and his wife, Megan, have four children.

“I started the trail at Amicolaia Falls State Park in Georgia,” Smith said. “There is an 8-mile approach trail from there to Springer Mountain, the southern terminus of the AT. I completed the trail at its northern terminus on Mount Katahdin in Baxter State Park in Maine.”

This was the longest hike Smith had ever taken. Prior to this, he had never hiked more than two nights and three days with an average range of 30 miles. He began hiking about 18 years ago on a family vacation In Acadia National Park in Maine. He only did day hikes

see page 7

*Milford*  
SCHOOL DISTRICT  
HOME of the BUCCANERS

## WE ARE HIRING

**OPEN POSITIONS**

Special Education  
Social Studies  
Substitute Teacher(s)  
Child Nutrition

...AND MORE!  
**APPLY ONLINE NOW**

- Competitive Pay
- Great work environment
- Health benefits
- Full Time and Part Time Opportunities

[milfordschooldistrict.org](http://milfordschooldistrict.org)



# Yes2Health

A free community health outreach program

**NEW GROUPS START IN SEPTEMBER!**

**Registration is required to receive meeting details and materials.** Join for free!

This program is brought to you by the Delaware Breast Cancer Coalition with generous support from:






up until about three years ago when he and his family began backpacking. Shoes were one of the biggest challenges he had on his hike.

“Some wore out, some hurt my feet, but overall, it was a challenge to find the right footwear,” Smith said. “Shoes I liked didn’t last very long and shoes that promised to be more durable hurt my feet. Getting enough calories was a challenge as well. You just can’t carry enough food. I lost over 20 pounds, returning home very thin for a man who is 6’2” at 151 pounds. Finally, the weather in New England was a challenge. The hiking gets harder as you head north. This was compounded this year with nearly non-stop rain. My feet were wet from Vermont to Baxter State Park in Maine. Days were cut short due to storms and other days were just miserable because of the rain and mud.”

The highlights of the trip were the epic views Smith saw along the trail.

“Just lots of beautiful scenery,” Smith said. “But, for me it was the people I got to meet and spend time with along the way.”

If he hiked the trail again, there are things Smith would do differently.

“I did this hike fast. My goal was 120 days. That’s about four months to accomplish something that most people take five to six months to do. I am happy that I hiked the way I hiked,” Smith said. “That being said, if I did it again, I would want to do it with my wife and take a full six months to do it. It’s a different kind of hike. My hike was more of an athletic endeavor. If I ever

do it again, it would be to really enjoy the trail and the hiking culture.”

Smith thanked his wife for her support in his goal.

“Without her love and support, I could never have made this journey,” Smith said. “She stayed home, worked a full-time job, took care of the kids, went to school and still had enough in the tank for me when I needed moral support. I just can’t thank her enough.”

Smith took a family vacation after his hike and posted on social media that his barbershop will reopen in early September.



**“**  
**With Delaware LIVE**  
**we share our story,**  
**not remain a static ad**  
**”**

- BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF DELAWARE

# Give your Fur Baby the BEST VACATION of the Year.

FUR BABY PET RESORT  
IN MILFORD, DE



**SHERRY SHUPE**  
Fur Baby Pet Resort Owner,  
Dog lover



# BUSINESS

Farm to Table ...  
• Asparagus • H...  
• Apples • Far...  
**STAG R**  
2365 Foxcroft Lane - Co...  
(cell) 302.270.7384  
www.de...



photo link: [Downtown Milford Inc.](#)



# SOLE REMEDY OPEN HOUSE AND RIBBON CUTTING

## STAFF REPORT

The public is invited to an open house and ribbon cutting ceremony at Angel Jarvis' business Sole Remedy. "DMI is especially excited to serve Angel Jarvis and her business Sole Remedy during Black Business Month," said downtown Milford, Inc.'s director, Janne Collins. "Angel has a big vision for her business and a heart to serve! Her accomplishments make her business a tremendous asset in the region. We are so glad she has chosen downtown Milford for her business location!"

Angel Jarvis has been serving the people of Delaware as the only certified clinical pedicurist in the state. "As a Certified Foot Care Nail Technician, I am trained in the enhanced skills required to perform safe cosmetic pedicures in our spa setting," says Jarvis. "The media has brought attention to the dramatic increase in client exposure to nail infections in nail salons which practice poor infection control. I believe a risk exists and we want to be very different in our approach," she says. "Infections are especially dangerous for clients that are

dealing with diabetes, autoimmune diseases, cancer or other chronic illnesses. Sole Remedy understands the importance of these services being provided by an advanced trained nail technician."

Foot Care Nail Technicians (FNTs) have a higher skill level due to advanced training in performing safe pedicure services and have passed at least two required exams to attain the certification. Clients having pedicures at Sole Remedy can enjoy pampering pedicures and feel safe, knowing the environment is clean and that the service is being provided by a pedicurist who is especially trained to work safely.

The open house and ribbon cutting is scheduled for 11 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 26, at 116A N. Washington St., Milford. You may make an appointment with Angel for a consultation by calling 302-644-5881. Light refreshments will be served after the ceremony. Please RSVP to [director@downtownmilford.org](mailto:director@downtownmilford.org).



IF YOU REMEMBER MAKING ONE OF THESE,



IT'S TIME TO MAKE ONE OF THESE: **Today**

**LET'S MAKE COLORECTAL CANCER HISTORY** *Colonoscopy* **2023**

Help us make colorectal cancer history by scheduling your colonoscopy today or by encouraging your 45+ friends and family to do so.

GET A TOTALLY AWESOME 'BOS T-SHIRT TO SUPPORT THE CAUSE

[▶ LEARN MORE](#)




## CITY EXPANDS DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

BY TERRY ROGERS

At a recent meeting, Milford City Council expanded the acreage of the Downtown Development District, a program offered through the Delaware State Housing Authority. Those who are accepted into the DDD program are eligible for a refund of up to 20 percent of qualified real property investments made on residential, commercial, industrial and mixed-use buildings within the boundaries.

“If you recall, back in early June, we had a workshop where we analyzed a couple of options for our Downtown Development District expansion. And there was some concurrence from council to move forward with option one,” Rob Pierce, city planner, said. “We made that submission to this State Planning Office before the end of June and it was on the July 18 Cabinet Committee on State Planning issues agenda.”

Pierce continued that he and Sara Bluhm, Economic Development and Community Engagement Administrator, attended the meeting where the state was very supportive of the expansion. The current DDD covers 184.89 acres and, with the expansion, would cover 199.90 acres.

“The expansion area is along South Washington Street from Southeast Second Street down to the ballpark entrance and some areas along Montgomery and Southeast Third,” Pierce explained.

Milford was accepted into the DDD program in 2016 and the initial area covered just over 170 acres of the town. In 2019, the area was expanded to include just over 185 acres. In addition to rebates on construction costs, those accepted into the program receive waivers

see page 11

DEC EV owners can receive billing credits when they conserve energy!



Learn more at [beatthepeak.coop!](http://beatthepeak.coop)

on sewer, water and electric impact fees as well as building permit fees. Any rehabilitation project that increase the assessed value of the property by 50 percent or more receive a full abatement of city taxes for 10 years while those that increase the assessed value by less than 50 percent receive a partial tax abatement over 10 years. New construction included in the program receive tax abatements for five years.

Several businesses took advantage of the DDD program in Milford in 2022 including 200 Front LLC, a townhouse community on Northwest Front Street across from Avenue Church which provided nine affordable townhomes in the city's northern historic district. The Penny Square building also benefitted from the program as well as the renovation of the former Rite Aid building by Jaasiel LLC. There were also 10 residences in the city that have benefitted from the DDD in 2022.

From 2015 to 2022, Milford projects have received \$1,969,337 in DDD rebates representing \$14,045,345 in private investment in the city. There have been five large and 47 small projects accepted into the program. For more information on the DDD program, contact Rob Pierce at 302-424-8396, Extension 1311 or visit [http://destatehousing.com/developers/dv\\_ddd.php](http://destatehousing.com/developers/dv_ddd.php).



REOPENING IN SEPTEMBER!

EDGE

COMPETITION



Compete for grant funding through our bi-annual EDGE (Encouraging Development, Growth & Expansion) initiative. It's an ideal way to help your Delaware small business level the playing field.

STEM



ENTREPRENEUR



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE EDGE GRANT COMPETITION AT:

DE.GOV/EDGE



# SUBDIVISION APPROVAL PROCESS STREAMLINED

BY TERRY ROGERS

At a recent meeting, Milford City Council streamlined the approval process for subdivision of land while also putting an expiration on preliminary review comments. The changes were designed to align the subdivision review process with site plan review.

“So, final site plan reviews currently are reviewed and approved administratively by the planning director, city engineer and city manager. We would also do that for the final major subdivision approval,” Rob Pierce, city planner, said. “So, that language has been updated as well.”

Councilman Mike Boyle cautioned allowing final approvals to be made without council input.

“I agree with subdivisions. I’m sorry major subdivisions,” Councilman Boyle said. “So, we are very fortunate. We have a very honest, very thoughtful city planner, city manager who I trust implicitly. I’ve only been here six years; others have been here longer. I think we could incur more problems and wonder where was the oversight? Are we in danger of putting ourselves in a position of not knowing things?”

Councilman Boyle continued that he was not opposed to streamlining the process, but he wanted council to be aware of what could happen should council be removed from the final process. He felt there should be wording that would trigger bringing the final site plan back to council due to specific changes.

“But the point of that is, and I certainly understand your argument is we’re trying to simplify the process and the cost in order to invest in Milford in a sense,” Councilman Todd Culotta said. “And when we give a preliminary approval, we meet a whole lot of criteria that says once you meet all that criteria you can move forward. It’s kind of redundant to come back and then say let’s give us your final approval. And if there’s any changes to your original plan approval, he’ll kick it back and say it’s gonna go back to the council.”

Councilman Boyle again stated that this was dependent on a forthcoming city planner in the future to which Councilman Culotta pointed out that the city

see page 13

# Why? Choose?

**Del-One Federal Credit Union**

*Helping members reach their goals since 1960*



www.Del-One.org | (302) 739-4496



manager would also be involved in the decision.

“I concur with Councilman Culotta but I do hear what Councilman Boyle is saying but I think if we were to say, okay, it does have to come back to council, we still have the issue of time, the time it takes to get back to council,” Councilman Jason James said. “We have such a lag in between. I mean you have people waiting just to get back on the agenda to go through another cycle. If we can fix that, then it needs to happen so we’re not putting a burden on the contractor or the applicant. I think it’s too great of a burden right now with the time it takes to get back to council.”

Councilman Boyle stated that he may not be making himself clear, that he did not intend to make it more difficult for the developer, but that the code was written so that it was the city planner’s decision to bring it back to council due to substantive changes. He felt that there needed to be wording that would trigger council’s involvement, so council was not blindsided in the future.

“So, our preliminary review process is fairly thorough. We don’t put anything on the agenda until it complies with the ordinance, or they’ve asked for their waivers, or they’ve obtained variances or whatever it might be. So, you know, it isn’t just a one pass through and then it’s on the agenda. A lot of times there’s three or four months lead up for the subdivisions to come before council,” Pierce said. “Some site plans are a little quicker because they are smaller scale. But by the time that comes before the Planning Commission and City Council for preliminary, the majority of the two dimensional features are nailed down and any of their off-site

see page 14

# PACE Is The Place For Me! Hear what PACE Your LIFE participants are saying!



*"Since I have enrolled, I have become more lively and social. I like everything about PACE, especially the people and the food!" ~ Theresa Shaffer*

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

*"My days before PACE Your LIFE were terrible. I was home alone all day. Now I tell people there is nothing else like PACE." ~ Ronnie Armstrong*



**PACE Your LIFE is a comprehensive medical and social program for residents in Milford as well as surrounding towns, who are 55 and older and need assistance with activities of daily living but want to age in place and remain in their home. Learn more today by scanning the QR Code!**



Your Life, Your Home,  
Your Way



A Program of All-Inclusive Care  
for the Elderly

improvements that are required for sewer, water, generally electric, they have an idea for the most part of all those are completed really between preliminary and final, the major things they're going after.

Pierce continued that there may be other items that are already included on a preliminary site plan that are fairly involved.

"Are there conditions that need to be placed plan approval. So, that's your grading, your elevations, your sewer lines, your water lines, the road profiles, generally doesn't affect the two dimensional features, really shouldn't affect entrance locations even because a lot of time they've already had their pre-application meetings with DelDOT, just so they don't change it because that would be, honestly, the one thing that would trigger me to bring it back," Pierce said. "A significant shift in like the entrance location of a subdivision. Otherwise, they can't come back with more units. They could come back with less units. A lot of times they lose units between preliminary and final because they had to move the pump station somewhere else, or they had to keep a certain feature on the property due to some unforeseen circumstance. So, there isn't a lot that changes. It's just they had to get all their agency approvals and get the city engineer to sign off on construction."

Councilman Boyle asked if some examples could be added that would trigger bringing a final plan back to council. He pointed out that there are some issues with developments currently in existence because approvals were not reviewed thoroughly. Councilman James asked if there could be a line added regarding substantial

changes to the final site plan. Pierce explained that he could review another section of the code that had language regarding the change of record plats. He felt some of that language could be added in that section of the code. Councilman Boyle again stated that he was not questioning Pierce or Whitfield's honesty, but he was looking at down the road when a different council was seated or new staff had taken their positions.

"And the reason why I had the language that we have in here that says the planner, the manager and the engineer have to sign because I don't want to be the only one signing the plan," Pierce said. "So if there's three of us signing, we really have to miss something. But you've been here long enough. So, I can make a revision to that and bring it back at a later date."

Councilman Dan Marabello asked if applicants were having issues with the lag time in getting approvals. Pierce stated that site plans were fairly simple, but subdivisions take much more time to review. Staff had taken the position to review them closely since a subdivision would remain for a considerable amount of time.

"I do get complaints from some developers that our processes are sometimes tedious. I think most people think that bureaucracy is tedious. Right? So, it's not just a general statement, but to Rob's point that he has made, you have a preliminary approval that says now you need DNREC approval, XYZ approval, this department, that department, you can't get your final until all those are done," Councilman Culotta said. "And those are checks and balances that are in place to make sure things are right. So, again are we giving up control? You could

argue yes, but I think we're simplifying the process, adding speed and ease. And that has a lot to do with investment and an investor's decision to make an investment and that's something we need to consider because they because they can take their money elsewhere and invest it somewhere else that it is easier to invest."

Councilman Andy Fulton stated that when he was on Planning and Zoning, they often talked about streamlining the process.

"Because from the preliminary to the final, if there's changes, it's going through a whole major review process a lot most of the times when we're looking at the preliminary and we're looking at the final. It's much, much easier to make a minor change here and there. And we've already discussed all the other requirements all in there," Councilman Fulton said. "And it is it's just bureaucracy. It's slowing a process that shouldn't take all those steps. When you go through every minute detail on the preliminary and then you turn around and have to go through every minute detail again on the final. And you look back 'Oh, that was already approved. Sorry. I missed that part that was already approved. Let's go on to this part. Was this approved?' I mean, because it's that detail. You can correct me if I'm wrong and getting it wrong on here, because I'm going off my memory on discussions on Planning and Zoning.

[CLICK TO READ MORE](#)

# GOVERNMENT & POLITICS



photo link: City of Milford

# PUBLIC HEARING PLANNED FOR CITY STRATEGIC PLAN

BY TERRY ROGERS

At a recent meeting, Milford City Council was presented with a draft of the updated Strategic Plan prepared by the University of Delaware. Bill McDowell, who led the team who talked to community stakeholders, provided a brief overview. The plan will be presented to council at a future meeting where public comment will be accepted.

“You’re looking at it what we believe is the final. I didn’t see any major changes,” McDowell said. “The one thing that we talked about here and it is mentioned in the plans, we talked about a matrix for those of you who use a matrix. What we decided to do, just because of the size and shape of a matrix that allows you the opportunity to really see progress is that we will use it as an addendum or an answer. So, like a bifold. And you would get that update quarterly I believe as well.”

McDowell explained that they tried to condense the plan into a matrix, but there was just too much infor-

mation and that the strategic plan should be looked at as a living document that is updated often.

“So, you would probably put that on your agenda on a quarterly basis to go through it and that also allows Mark (Whitfield) and his staff to kind of put together something that’s real. That is what we’re doing. We tried to do 30 days, 60, 90 days and go from there,” McDowell said.

The strategic plan includes many objectives that were created using community feedback. Citizens requested better and more timely communication from city government as well as the creation of a central hub for information on volunteer opportunities. The respondents also would like to see monthly community events to not only provide activities for residents but also to attract visitors as well.

As for safety, citizens want police action monitored

see page 17

# Keep the fun in summer.

## KEEP COVID-19 IN CHECK.

**COVID-19 VACCINE**  
GET VACCINATED OR BOOSTED.

**STAY HOME IF SICK AND GET TESTED.**

**TESTED POSITIVE? GET TREATMENT.**

**CONSIDER MASKING UP.**



Learn more at [de.gov/coronavirus](https://de.gov/coronavirus)





from page 16

regularly to determine types of crimes, deployment of police resources and calls for service. They also would like to see crime reduced in the city and research-based strategies implemented for public safety. When it came to economic development, those interviewed wanted economic activities that fostered employment by four percent in five years. They also wanted more job training opportunities, strong workforce development supports and strategies among existing businesses that would encourage growth. Many wanted to see a more vibrant downtown that would bring more visitors into the area. In addition, citizens would like to see more tourism in the Milford area.

Street rehabilitation was another area where citizens would like to see improvement while others wanted future growth to be addressed by proactively improving infrastructure. Residents are asking for additional multi-modal, pedestrian-friendly pathways throughout Milford, and many would like to see traffic managed more efficiently. Those who responded asked that the city be enhanced with additional public green space and parks. In addition, they asked for a variety of recreational activities that would promote a healthy community.

The entire strategic plan can be found on the city [website](#).



# AQUACARE

## Physical Therapy

Celebrating 25 Years

f AquacarePT    @AquacarePT    @AquacarePhysicalTherapy

[www.AQUACAREPHYSICALTHERAPY.com](http://www.AQUACAREPHYSICALTHERAPY.com)

**IN YOUR  
NEIGHBORHOOD!**

**Let us get you moving again  
at Aquacare - Milford.**

**We offer gym-based physical therapy  
at the Milford Wellness Village  
and aquatic therapy at the  
Boys and Girls Club pool.**

**We also offer a medically supervised  
gym membership!**



**Learn more and schedule  
your FREE 30-minute consultation today:**

**Call us at 302-491-4196 or visit us online at [www.aquacarephysicaltherapy.com](http://www.aquacarephysicaltherapy.com)**



# BID AWARDED FOR DOWNTOWN STREETSCAPES

BY TERRY ROGERS

Milford City Council recently awarded two bids to KCI Technologies for the design and construction of updated streetscapes in downtown Milford. The updates include upgrades to Park Place, Denney Row, Southwest Front Street, Southeast Third Street and North Washington Street.

“As you recall, we wrapped up our concept planning review which was reviewed and accepted by city council on June 26, with the condition of leaving Southwest Front Street as a two-way option. So, we did receive two proposals that are included in the packet for the design of the streetscape project and construction administration from KCI Technologies,” Rob Pierce, city planner, said. “They would be paid for throughout various capital projects that have been approved and funded in the FY 24 through FY 28 CIP. It would be funded with \$755,000 available through the FY 23 And FY 24 approvals. From the CIP, they were projected to cover both design and staggered construction costs. Available funds will cover the design in all five projects and the remainder will roll forward to combine with

additional funding and the FY 25 plan to support the construction of these improvements in future fiscal years.”

Councilman Andy Fulton asked if the funding was included in the budget and Pierce confirmed that it was.

The streetscape changes include parking reconfigurations in the lot across from Park Place along with sidewalk improvements. Brick walls and street corner landscaping will be added along with a “pocket park” adjacent to the parking lot. Crosswalks are planned along with trees and other landscaping. A boat ramp is planned between Arena’s and Houser’s Auto Trim. Garbage screening will be added to hide dumpsters in some areas and retractable bollards that will close off streets during festivals are also planned.

One bid was for \$190,000 and covered the design and construction costs for North Washington Street, Denney Row and Park Avenue while the other was for \$145,000 for Southwest Front Street. The bids were both accepted unanimously.



**BEST SHOT**

**RANGE DAY**

ARMED & EDUCATED

**INDOOR RANGE**

**FIREARM TRAINING**

- Concealed Carry
- Handguns for Beginners
- AR Fundamentals
- Defensive Shooting
- First Aid & Treatments

**PERSONAL SAFETY**

- Self-Defense Seminar
- Personal Safety Event
- Children's Firearm Safety Workshop
- Women's Only Courses

**Open to the Public**

**Memberships Available**

- 15yd Handgun Bay
- 25yd Rifle Bay

302-567-2530 | [www.bestshotde.com](http://www.bestshotde.com)

16797 Coastal Hwy, Lewes, DE 19958

# CHICKENS NOT PERMITTED IN CITY LIMITS UNDER NEW ZONING CHANGES

BY TERRY ROGERS

Backyard chicken coops were the discussion at a recent Milford City Council meeting as council reviewed updates to conditional uses within city limits. One of the changes would have allowed a limited number of hens within city limits but roosters would remain prohibited. Other changes included the allowance of tiny homes, description of pallet villages and an increase in the size of subdivision signs.

“Just for clarification on the chicken coops,” Councilwoman Nirmala Samaroo said. “You have to have a permit for chickens by city of Milford and the chicken has to be registered with the Department of Agriculture? Just for clarification for the public.”

City Planner Rob Pierce explained that the Department of Agriculture did require registration of all chickens on property and that the city would require building permits for the construction of coops and runs. Councilman Todd Culotta pointed out that the ordinance would permit no more than four hens and the coop would need to provide three feet of space per chicken up to a maximum of 20 square feet. Council-

woman Samaroo also asked if she was reading correctly that a property owner could not put a six-foot privacy fence on the front of their property. Pierce stated that in a residential zone, they would permit a three-and-a-half foot fence in the front yard, but six was permitted in the rear. This was to prevent obstruction of view in the neighborhood.

“Tiny home village, let’s talk,” Councilman Andy Fulton said. “If we follow this we could never put something together like Georgetown. Eight units per acre for one. Remember Georgetown? Okay, no more than eight units per acre for one. The maximum lot coverage. Since we’re doing more than eight per acre there was more lot coverage than that. Lot width was not 40 feet or minimum on those out there in Georgetown. Lot area should be 4,000 square feet, that that is way too long. Minimum front yard setback of 25 feet. I think you have a lot in there built for manufactured homes, and that’s exactly what you said you were doing. But I think in the ordinance, like for a tiny home village, we really need to

see page 20

Proud partners in our Delaware communities

mountaire.com



# CAREER FAIRS

## HAPPENING SOON NEAR YOU

LEARN MORE



rework that in order to get it so we could build something like Georgetown. That's what the whole goal in doing this was putting the tiny home villages together was for something like that. And this doesn't. This misses the mark."

Councilman Jason James asked if the intent was to have tiny home be synonymous with pallet villages since he did not think they were the same thing.

"A tiny home and a pallet village is not the same thing. I was considering the pallet village would fall under a conditional use of an emergency shelter facility. And then we could provide in review that as an emergency shelter," Councilman James said. "A tiny home village would be more like something where the people own or rent the tiny homes, almost like a manufactured home community. A tiny home is a specific structure is not a pallet house, right?"

Pierce explained that the current code required a tiny home to have kitchen and bathroom facilities while a pallet village would only require a bedroom. Most pallet villages designed for homeless had communal kitchen and bath facilities, which would then fall under emergency shelter ordinances.

During the public comment section of the meeting, Martha Gery of Milford Advocacy for the Homeless spoke about the zoning changes.

"First of all, I continue to commend the entire committee here for the work that you're doing to try to resolve some of the issues with affordable housing, emergency shelter and palette homes. It's really hard as none of this is easy. So, I want to commend you on that,"

Gery said. "There is some great stuff in all of this that you're doing here, but I do want to focus on a couple of things. For us, one of the things that that we're looking for is, what is the solution to the homeless problem. So, we have pallet houses, which causes some solution to those people who are displaced, right? But then you have tiny homes. That is another population. We have a number of seniors that are now displaced because they can't afford the housing. Tiny homes would do that. And the more acreage that we don't have to use, smaller things like there's a place for a car and there's a place for their home. And still put it on a solid foundation like you're suggesting and make guidelines, whether it's maintenance and just like you do anything else."

Gery felt the city was on the right track but more work needed to be done.

"I think there is some work that needs to be done on what exactly is in there so that it can include all of these things. But also, when you're talking about other solutions. So, like for us, we're looking at nine cars, and it's a 10-room group home, if you want to call it that, you can note because it is what's at home," Gery said. "And when you're looking at something like that, I want to make sure that when we're looking at the wording it would fit something like that. Whether or not that's the place that we get or not. It was 10 rooms. It could be temporary shelter. It could be a group home. So, I'm asking you to look at that kind of situation. Because if we can do more of that we can help more people. And so, it takes a larger population of what you're trying to solve."

Some of the words used in the ordinances concerned Gery as she felt they sounded like they would cost more than the average person could afford.

"When I hear words like conditional, it sounds expensive, it sounds time consuming, and it sounds like it takes a lot of legislative type of things so that's what it sounds like to me. I've told you before, I am not a politician in any way. But those are some of the words that I hear that are concerning. And so, I encourage you to go back and refine some of those things so that it can be inclusive, so we don't have to keep going back and revisiting this and revisiting it," Gery said. "Define what palette shelters are, defining what emergency shelter is, define what a tiny home village is. You all did an awesome thing last year and opened up the Public Works building. If we had a home and you had it already zoned to say you could do temporary emergency shelter. It's a no brainer, right? We just open it up when it's cold. Because we've already got approval for it. City council doesn't have to do anything special. But it's temporary. It's emergency. So don't really have a lot more to say. But I just wanted to thank you for your continual efforts and just encourage you to go back and refine this a little bit more."

Councilwoman Katrina Wilson brought up the chicken coop ordinance, pointing out that she did not recall a conversation that council wanted such an ordinance.

[CLICK TO READ MORE](#)

# EDUCATION



photo link: [Milford School District](#)

MILFORDLIVE



MilfordLive



@Milfordlive

MilfordLive.com



# COUNCIL APPROVES FUNDING REQUEST FROM MSD

BY TERRY ROGERS

At a recent meeting, Milford City Council approved a request for \$5,000 from the Milford School District to cover the cost of supplies for a new Emergency Management Services (EMS) pathway at Milford High School. The funding was issued in partnership with the district, the city and Carlisle Fire Company.

“We are here this evening on behalf of the Milford School District and we are seeking support in partnership with the Carlisle Fire Company, the Fire School of the State of Delaware, as well as the city of Milford to bring the EMS program to our high school, which will allow for us to train students to be able to be fully certified EMTs by the time they graduate,” Dr. Bridget Amory, interim superintendent, said. “It’ll be a small number of students who will be able to participate to get started, but we’re very excited about the opportunity. It’s a

natural fit with our Allied Health pathway and it’s a direct immediate impact in our community. So, when we had the initial planning discussions, we talked about how the city could potentially provide support, and it was our hope that there could be funds to offset the cost associated with the consumable materials. And we’ve done the lift of acquiring the staff member and allocating the personnel as well as working on identifying all of the curriculum adjustments with the fire company as well. So, we’re here this evening to seek support from the city in that venture.”

Councilman Jason James commended Dr. Amory for hearing the need in the community and getting the ball rolling on this needed program.

“We started down this path quite some time ago. At

see page 23



**New School Year.  
New Teacher.  
New Chance to Learn.**

*Ask Your Child's Teacher:  
How can you and I ensure that my  
child is academically successful?*



Ask Congress to protect parents' option to choose the public school that best fits their kids' needs!  
<https://act.publiccharters.org/delaware>

the meetings with Carlisle, our company, the former superintendent and Dr. Amory was present at that time. It was after hearing the desires and struggles from the Carlisle Fire Department of recruitment and retention. We said ‘well, what can we do?’ so we called a meeting with the fire company and Milford School District and the city asking ‘how can we partner to make this happen?’ We said ‘well, if there was a program at school that would give the fire company opportunity to have an EMS program, it would give them a pipeline of students that could be doing some of the internship at the fire company, become firefighters while they are working on their EMS or EMT program,’” Councilman James said. “The doctor took it and ran with it and made it happen. Enlightening, enlightening time, very much appreciate it. And it was the idea was that we, too, have a part in this. We are very concerned about response time, adequate staffing, the safety of our community and our citizens. And I think this is a way to show that we are putting our money where our mouth is, that we want to make sure that we are partners in providing public safety contracts, having a pipeline through the school system with the Carlisle Fire Company and I say Carlisle Fire Company, because Milford schools serve more than just Milford kids, it’d be Houston and Ellendale and the like.”

Dr. Amory explained that when students would be eligible to take the EMS examination which would certify them, not only at the state level but also at the national level.

“So, if any of our students are to relocate, of course, our hope is that they come and serve in their own

immediate community, but if they do relocate or if they choose to go and study elsewhere, they do have the ability to use these skills in another community as well,” Dr. Amory said. “So that’s a very exciting opportunity for our students to be able to literally walk out of our high school credentialed and ready to go and be able to get right back.”

After details of the program were released, Dr. Amory stated that there were some concerns from citizens about high school students riding along on ambulances or fire engines where they may be subjected to disturbing scenes.

“I should just add, we did hear some questions from the community in regard to how the students would be handled if they were to have a ride along where there would be any type of disturbing scene or anything of that nature,” Dr. Amory said. “And the state of Delaware Fire School reassured us that all of our students would have direct access to all of the supports that are associated with experiencing such events. So, if there’s any concern about any mental health needs, or any student who feels as though they need to have access to victim services in any way, shape, or form that is going to be part of the program, which is also just an incredible extension and an opportunity for our students as well.”

After council approved the request unanimously, Dr. Amory thanked them for the support.

“I’ll be happy to bring some updates as we get the program rolling and if anyone would like to join us, let me know and I’d be happy to show off the program once we get it rolling,” she said.



# NEW GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

- Certificate in Marketing
- Certificate in Human Resource Management
- Certificate in Health Care Management
- Certificate in Entrepreneurship
- Certificate in Information Technology



**LOCATION | CONTACT | WEBSITE**

4701 Limestone Road  
Wilmington, DE 19808 | 302-225-6248  
Admissions@gbc.edu | www.gbc.edu/

# JOHN MOLLURA

- PHOTOGRAPHY -

BEAUTY PORTRAITS - HEAD SHOTS  
- FAMILIES -

302.222.6308





# HEALTH



photo link: [Bayhealth Medical Center](#)



BY TERRY ROGERS

Milford Wellness Village's WeCare program, designed to promote better healthcare decisions and well-being through personalized relationships with clients, will offer several programs over the next few months. These are self-management programs available online that are designed to promote healthy living as well as the management of chronic diseases.

On Aug. 22, the program will offer a Healthy Living Self-Management Online Workshop that will discuss chronic diseases. The program provides access to essential tools and resources designed to effectively manage chronic diseases like arthritis, asthma, diabetes, lung disease, heart disease, stroke and osteoporosis. The workshop is designed for those who find it

## MILFORD WELLNESS VILLAGE WECARE OFFERS SELF-MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

challenging to navigate their condition and want to better manage the illness on their own.

Another online workshop is planned for Oct. 9 entitled "Empowering Diabetes Control and Healthy Living." Diabetes is a chronic, complex illness and it necessitates constant monitoring in order to avoid complications. The evidence-based program offered through WeCare is designed to empower those with the illness with knowledge and skills with the goal of taking control of their health and living a fulfilling, vibrant life.

Those looking for a fun way to start living a healthy life will enjoy Bingocize, a 10-week, evidence-based program approved by the National Council on Aging (NCOA) and SNAP-Ed. This unique program combines health information using the popular game of bingo with exercise and it is specifically designed with senior citizens in mind. Sessions are held twice each week and last between 45 and 60 minutes.

WeCare will offer "A Matter of Balance," a specialized program designed to reduce the fear of falling while also enhancing activity levels in older adults. Attendees can choose between virtual and in-person formats for these eight 2-hour sessions in-person or nine 2-hour sessions virtually.

On Oct. 25, in partnership with the University of Delaware, WeCare will offer "Dining with Diabetes." The program is designed to teach those with the illness how to follow a careful meal plan, the first step to managing

diabetes and keeping blood sugars in a healthy range. For many, this is the hardest part of managing diabetes. The program provides tips on reducing sugar, salt and fat in foods while still eating meals that taste good.

The program is a five-class series for those with diabetes and family members. It includes diabetes education, cooking demonstrations and tasting healthy foods. After each lesson, healthy recipes are sent home along with knowledge about how to manage diabetes. The first class talks about mealtime for individuals with diabetes while the second deals with dessert. The third covers main dishes, the fourth side dishes and the final class talks about seasonal reunion. The cost of the five sessions is \$50.

Registration for all classes is required. For the Chronic Disease, Diabetes, Bincocize and A Matter of Balance, register [HERE](#). Complete the online form and a staff member will contact you about class times. Register [HERE](#) for Dining with Diabetes and choose Milford Wellness Village.



# SPORTS



photo link: [Milford Bucs](#)



BY BRYAN SHUPE

A common thread between the 12th Man Gridiron Club Hall of Fame inductees is community service. Joseph Bowen is no exception as he has dedicated his life to helping others. Following his graduation from Milford in 1988, Bowen decided that service to his country and community would be his path.

Bowen spent the next three years in the United States Army serving in Operation Desert Storm. When time for re-enlistment was up, Bowen had to think long and hard about whether the Army was for him. “It was a very difficult decision for me, but it came down to the fact that the growth potential was probably not going to

## HALL OF FAME BECKONS FOR BOWEN

be there for me, so I decided to seek a different path,” Bowen stated.

That path led Bowen into law enforcement, where he spent 13 years serving the community. “I really enjoyed being a police officer, but it turned out I would be needed elsewhere,” commented Bowen. “In 2016, I left the department to become a full-time caregiver to my sister Jane. She has special needs and I felt it was my responsibility to take what I consider the most important job of my life.”

What Bowen has and continues to accomplish in his life leads directly back to his time playing for the Buccaneers. The life lessons, discipline and respect for others that he learned on the field are the things that made him who he is today. “Football was a great joy for me at Milford. I enjoyed my teammates, my coaches, the community and the school,” said Bowen. “It gave me the structure I needed to become a better person.”

Bowen was a four-year letterman for Milford, playing on both sides of the ball. His greatest accomplishments came as an offensive tackle. He was named first team all-conference as a senior, after being named third team as a junior. Bowen was also named third team all-state as a senior.

Former coach Jack Simon offered high praise for Bowen. “He was the type of player that any coach would love to have, he was a dream to coach. When you showed him something he executed it,” Simon stated. “He was the type of player that could rally the team, his team-

mates always thought very highly of him. He was simply a go-to type of player.”

Bowen offered a great deal of credit to his grandmother who took care of him when his single mother, Sue Brooks, went off to college. “They both sacrificed so much for me so that I could compete in sports and to make a better life for our family. My mother would go on to teach for over 20 years at Banneker Elementary School. Believe me, they both sacrificed a great deal for us,” he said.

When asked about being named to the Hall of Fame, Bowen offered up one final thought. “I was also very surprised. Think about it, who would remember a lineman that played over 30 years ago? I guess that’s what makes Milford the special place that it is.”

MILFORD  
LIVE

# IN MEMORIAM



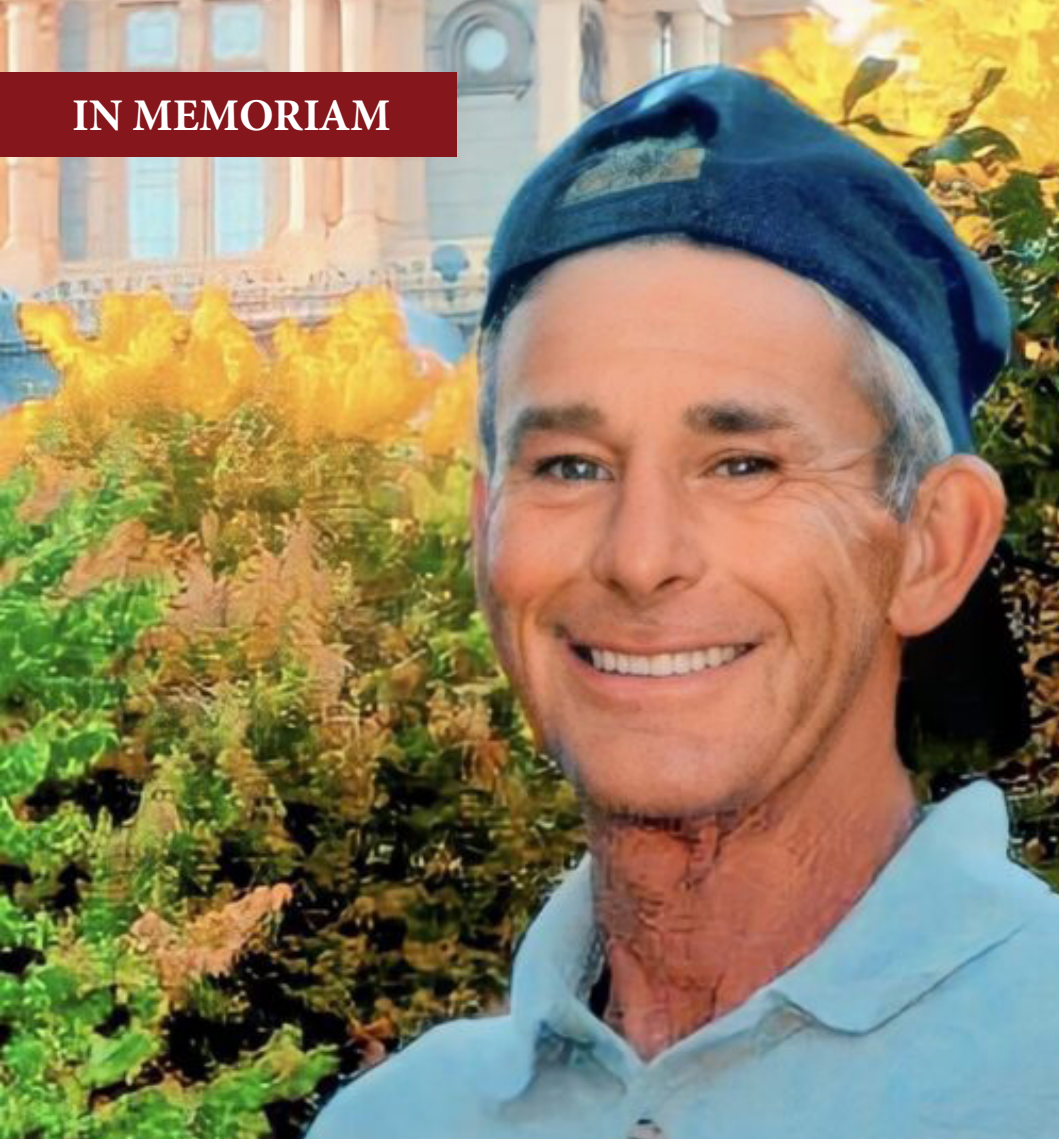
photo by Deborah Felmev

MILFORDLIVE

 MilfordLive

 @Milfordlive

MilfordLive.com



## STAFF REPORT

Robert B. "Bobby" Walls, 75, of Milford, passed away peacefully on Saturday, Aug. 12, at home surrounded by his loving family. Bobby was born in Milford, the son of the late James L. and Mildred (Megee) Walls. He served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War. Following his military service, Bobby went to work for UPS as a delivery man and shop steward for 30 years before retiring in 2006. He was a member of Avenue United Methodist Church and the Teamsters Union. As a competitive athlete, Bobby relished the joy of playing on a team. He also coached many teams for Milford

## SERVICES PLANNED FOR ROBERT "BOBBY" WALLS

Little League and Senior League, coached Pop Warner Football, and volunteered his time to support athletics in the Milford School District. Bobby was also a devout Notre Dame sports fan and loved to dance. He also cherished his role as "Pop" to his grandchildren, and was first and foremost, devoted to his family. In addition to his parents, Bobby was preceded in death by two sisters, Jeanette Reale and Toni Diogo.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 53 years Elaine (Bunting) Walls; his children Yvette Dennehy and her husband Brad and grandsons Liam and Keegan Dennehy; Keith Walls and his wife Linzy and granddaughter Isla Walls; and son Kevin Walls and his partner Joanna Inman; two brothers Bill Walls and Jim Walls; sister Molly Kirby, and numerous nieces and nephews.

A Celebration of Life for Bobby will be held at noon on Saturday, Aug. 26, at Avenue United Methodist Church, 20 N. Church Street, Milford, where friends may visit with the family from 11 a.m. to noon. In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions be made to Milford Little League, P.O. Box 404, Milford, DE 19963 or to the Milford High School football program, 1019 N. Walnut St., Milford, DE 19963. Arr. by Lofland Funeral Home, Milford. Letters of condolence may be shared with the family at [www.loflandandmcknatt.com](http://www.loflandandmcknatt.com).



### FEEL BETTER SOONER.

WITH BAYHEALTH VIRTUAL URGENT CARE, YOU CAN SEE A BOARD-CERTIFIED DOCTOR IN AS FEW AS 10 MINUTES, 24/7.

Allergies, rashes, infections, sore throat, cold and flu, gout, UTIs. Whatever the symptoms, get the care you need sooner. Download the app and enroll today. [Bayhealth.org/Virtual-Urgent-Care](http://Bayhealth.org/Virtual-Urgent-Care)

BAYHEALTH@HOME



# STAY CONNECTED

**MILFORD LIVE IS YOUR SOURCE FOR NEWS AND INFORMATION IN THE GREATER MILFORD, DELAWARE AREA. STAY CONNECTED WITH US BY PHONE, EMAIL OR ON SOCIAL MEDIA BY CLICKING ON THE LINKS.**



**PHONE: 302-542-9231**



**For News & Information: [news@delawarelive.com](mailto:news@delawarelive.com)  
To Advertise With Us: [shupe@delawarelive.com](mailto:shupe@delawarelive.com)**



**[instagram.com/milford\\_live/](https://www.instagram.com/milford_live/)**



**[twitter.com/live\\_delaware](https://twitter.com/live_delaware)**



**[facebook.com/delawarelivenews/](https://www.facebook.com/delawarelivenews/)**





**Watch Delaware Live on YouTube!**



**[linkedin.com/company/delaware-live-news](https://www.linkedin.com/company/delaware-live-news)**

# MILFORD LIVE

 **MilfordLive**  **@Milfordlive**

**Without these collaborators,  
this outlet would not be  
possible:**

**Bryan Shupe, CEO**

**Betsy Price, Editor**

**Sonja M. Frey, Publisher**

*John Mollura Photography*

## *Design your 2023 through Intentional Business and Marketing Planning*

As a locally-owned company, Delaware LIVE News takes pride in working alongside regional businesses to develop digital marketing campaigns, through our daily news platforms.

From large corporations like Christiana Care, Delaware Tech Community College, and Delaware Department of Health to small shops like Fur Baby Pet Resort, Dolce Coffee Shop, and Benvenuto Tuscan Restaurant, we customize each plan to optimize the needs of each of our marketing partners.

I would love the opportunity to meet with you for 10-15 minutes to see how we can help. You can click the link to set up a meeting with me in our virtual office: <https://meetings.hubspot.com/shupe1>

*CEO, Bryan Shupe / 302-542-9231 / shupe@delawarelive.com*

