

# MILFORD LIVE

photo link: Marcia Reed



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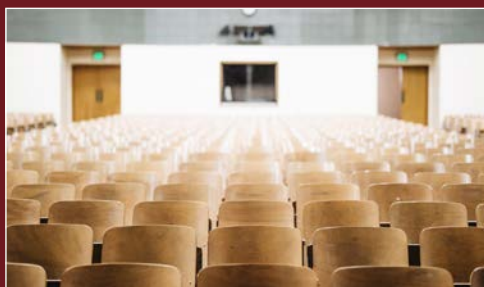


**August 8, 2023**  
**Vol. 13 • Issue 32**

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Milford Parade Getting Ready



School Boards Question Value of State Association



Special Olympics Summer Camp



# HEADLINES



photo link: Ruth Housten-Behrens





# MILFORD PARADE OPENS FOR SPONSORS, ENTRIES

BY TERRY ROGERS

Even though we are still in the throes of summer heat, the Milford Community Parade Committee has been hard at work planning the 2023 event. This year, the parade will be held Wednesday, Oct. 18, with step off at 6:30 p.m. The theme will be “The Great Outdoors.”

“The committee has officially opened its website for sponsors and entries to help groups and individuals begin brainstorming their ideas,” Charles Gray, chairperson, said. Gray continued that although this is called the Milford Community Parade, it is also the time of year people enjoy dressing up in costume.

“It’s October and we celebrate in costumes. We like to see fun costumes, spooky costumes and this year, we are even looking for spoofs to the normal outdoor

themes,” Gray said. “Zombies that are fishing, someone riding a bear, woodland gnomes, storybook characters themed around outdoor activities, Snow White with a push mower or Captain America hanging up the laundry, the ideas are endless. Additional ideas for brainstorming can be found on the parade’s website.”

The parade was started by Mayor Evans in 1938 or 1939. In 1985, Mayor Joseph “Ronnie” Rogers asked Jim Gray, who owned a barbershop downtown, a past state president of the Delaware Jaycees and a Little League coach, to lead a new parade committee. Over the years, the Gray family has become heavily involved in the parade.

see page 4

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from page 3

“As normal for Dads, their kids look to them for leadership and so the entire family got involved,” Gray said. “My dad, my sister, Carmen Kemper and I have all been chairpersons of the committee at some point over the past 30 years. Marie Jo Gray has been the treasurer for most of that time. We also have extended family and friends from Dover, Harrington, Milford, Houston, Lincoln and Magnolia who have also served.”

The annual parade brings more than 10,000 visitors from all over the Delmarva Peninsula to downtown Milford and, in past years, Milford Police Department has reported as many as 30,000 sitting along downtown streets watching as the parade goes by. Many place chairs to stake out their claim along the street early that morning. There are three reviewing stands with a concession vendor and portable restrooms along the parade route, which begins near the old Milford Middle School and ends at Milford Senior High School, traveling along Seabury Avenue and heading north on Walnut Street to 10th Street directly through Milford’s downtown. The reviewing stands can be found at City Hall, Milford Church of God and the former Milford Plant and Garden Center at the end of Walnut Street. Awards are given at the end of the parade.

Parade organizers anticipate participants will find fun ways to look at the great outdoors with humorous representations or spooky spinoffs.

Annually, parade participants have included civic groups, scout troops, business associations, businesses, and individuals or families. Also included are marching bands and fire companies.

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



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“Each of these categories bring a different representation of the surrounding communities,” stated Gray. “Our local heroes that accompany the fire trucks should be hailed for their volunteerism. Scouts and civic groups are recognized with their missions and get a chance to have fun together while getting publicity for their group.”

Rules for entrants can be found on the Milford Community Parade website. In addition, an online entry form is available on the site, or those who wish to participate can call or fax 302-422-3038.

“One rule we want to stress,” Mr. Gray said. “We began and continue to not allow parade participants to hand out anything from the parade and this includes politicians. The rule is for every entrant in the parade and includes candy, paper, flyers or other objects. If a candidate breaks these rules, we feel it speaks to how well that candidate abides by rules.”

Those interested in sponsoring or entering, can find information at [www.milfordparade.com](http://www.milfordparade.com). Partners such as the city of Milford, Burriss Logistics, community-minded businesses and individuals, too, provide the necessary logistical and financial support needed to operate the parade that travels 1.7 miles through the heart of town. Funding efforts such as sponsorships and fundraising events with the support of the business community and individuals, assist with expenses such as awards, band judges, portable restrooms and more. More information can be found at the website under the tab for sponsor.

The Committee is an all-volunteer group, whose sole purpose is to plan and produce the parade annually. A group of citizen-volunteers assist the committee each year to bring Walnut Street alive for the children in all of us. Members of law enforcement and first responders also assist with the production and safety of the parade.

“We could not have such a successful parade if it wasn’t for our friends in law enforcement and first responders. They too have been with us each and every year,” commented Gray. “The parade is anticipated by so many, referred to as the Milford Halloween Parade for many years, you can feel how long someone has been coming if they refer to it as the Halloween Parade. We began in the 1990s with incorporating a yearly theme. This has led to some outstanding floats, beautiful music choices by bands and clever costumes. It was then we decided to re-brand to The Milford Community Parade.”

The current committee has been producing the parade for more than 30 years.



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# CULTURE



photo link: [Second Street Players](#)



## MILFORD LIBRARY PLANS MANY "COOL" PROGRAMS IN AUGUST

BY BETSY PRICE

If you are looking for a place too cool off during August, usually the hottest month of the year, Milford Public Library is a great option. Not only can you find some relief from the heat, you can develop new skills or learn new things with their upcoming programs.

"On Saturday, Aug. 12, we have partnered with the Milford Museum for a presentation by Lucas R. Clawson," Carolyn Tabor, program coordinator said. "He will present 'The du Pont Family: A Brief Introduction.' The program begins at 1 p.m. and will last one hour."

The du Pont family has been closely tied to Delaware history from 1802 to the present, Tabor explained. However, there are many people who are unaware of the contributions the family made to the state.

"In this program, you will learn how they came to Delaware and ended up running one of the nation's most prominent chemical companies," Tabor said. "Mr. Clawson will help answer questions and discuss the du Pont family and their place in Delaware history. It is part of the American History Series we are offering each

month that has been made possible by a generous grant from the Delaware Humanities Commission."

Also on Aug. 12 from 10 a.m. until noon, the Milford Police Department will provide a Narcan presentation in the Smith Room. "Opioid emergencies can happen to anyone, anywhere, so we want people to learn more and be prepared," Tabor said. "This is a free training that is open to the public and no experience is necessary. You could learn how to quickly and easily save someone's life using this option to reverse an opioid overdose."

In the presentation, participants will learn how Narcan works not only with illicit drugs but also to reverse overdoses of prescription opioids. This event is made possible through a collaboration between the Milford Police Department and the Milford Public Library. Narcan is provided by Partners in Public Safety Solutions. Anyone with questions can call 302-265-8843.

"One of the programs we are excited to offer is 'Introduction to Birdwatching' which will be held off site on

see page 8

# Keep the fun in summer.

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from page 7

Aug. 22 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.,” Tabor said. “This is a hands-on introduction presentation provided by Connor O’Hea, a bird watching ecologist. He will explain how to birdwatch as well as give you resources to assist in the process of birdwatching.”

Participants will meet at the Blair’s Pond 5K Trail on Abbott’s Pond Road in Milford. It is recommended that participants bring binoculars, but it is not required. Everyone will walk one-half mile to the trail and then turn around for the walk back to the entrance. There is a path marked for walking, but it can be uneven, Tabor explained. Those who wish to attend should be able to walk one mile. Bring water and wear comfortable shoes. A trail map will be provided. Those who attend may stay longer, but should be aware that the trail closes at dusk. Registration is required, but the program is free.

“Our final program for August is Sussex County Habitat for Humanity on Thursday, Aug. 24 at 5:30 p.m.,” Tabor said. “You will learn more about the services offered by Habitat for Humanity’s home ownership program. Topics will include home ownership, free financial coaching, how to apply and qualify as well as ways to reduce energy in your home, community resources and more.”

Information about the Sussex County Habitat for Humanity program, contact Kenya Neal, Homeowner Services Manager at 302-855-1153, ext. 209 or email [kenya@sussexcountyhabitat.org](mailto:kenya@sussexcountyhabitat.org).

All programs are free, but registration is required. Forms can be found on the events calendar for the Milford Public Library.



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## HIPPIEFEST PLANNED FOR AUGUST 19

### STAFF REPORT

Come celebrate the music of the 60s and 70s at the annual Hippiifest in Milford, to be held on Saturday, Aug. 19, from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Causey Mansion, located at 2 Causey Avenue. Bring blankets and chairs to relax on the lawn. Lincoln City Band will perform hits from the 1960s and 1970s, while DJ Dana McDonald of Forever Media will spin tunes from the same era during band breaks. Dress in your tie-dye, bell bottoms, pedal pushers and headbands!

Food trucks will be available and The Alcohauler will be offering adult beverages. BYOB is permitted but no outside food please. While there is no parking on the

grounds of the mansion, parking diagrams will be posted on social media a few days before the event, so guests are aware of the parking areas.

Visitors must be 18 years or older with valid ID. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.Eventbrite.com](http://www.Eventbrite.com) or in-person at the Milford Museum, which is open 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. Tickets for the event are \$35 starting Aug. 1. For more information, contact the Milford Museum at 302-424-1080.



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





# EDGE FUNDING GOES TO 10 MORE DELAWARE STARTUPS

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

Delaware has given grants to 10 small businesses, as winners of the seventh round of the Encouraging Development, Growth and Expansion competition.

Five STEM-based companies will each receive up to \$100,000 for eligible expenses, while five Entrepreneur Class businesses will each receive up to \$50,000. Specific amounts to each company were not released.

**EDGE** is a matching grant program. The Delaware Division of Small Business matches a winning business's investment on a 3-to-1 basis.

Including this round, \$5 million has been awarded to 80 promising Delaware small businesses since EDGE was launched in 2019.

This round drew 130 applications. Applications for the eighth round open Sept. 1. Businesses that are less than seven years old and employ no more than 10 staff are eligible.

## STEM Class recipients

**Connect2Co** is a business-to-business startup software tool. Its all-in-one platform integrates external solutions, eliminating the need for toggling between applications. The grant enables Connect2Co to ramp up its initial operations by funding co-working space at the Mill in Wilmington, along with marketing and speeding the platform's development timeline.

**Doubly** is a minority and women-owned startup founded in 2023 in Middletown. Doubly's application integrates with enterprise messaging platforms like Teams and Slack to help boost productivity, and connectedness as a result of remote work. EDGE funding will be used to finalize the application's development, conduct extensive user testing and hire software engineers and designers.

see page 12

the meoli companies

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# DELMARVA POWER RESIDENTIAL ELECTRICITY BILLS UP 9.91%

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

Delmarva Power's electricity rate for Delaware went up June 1, the company said, and "the average residential customers will see their overall electric bill increase 9.91% or \$12.47 a month."

The new rates—there are 16 of them on a flier distributed with the latest bill—were approved the state Public Service Commission, it said. The flier also has been posted online.

Delmarva Power in December filed a plan to increase rates by \$72.3 million, the state said, following a \$16.7 million increase approved in 2021. The public advocate, a state employee who, well, advocates for the public, quickly blasted the proposal.

The flier explains hikes for Standard Offer Service customers, meaning people who buy electricity from Delmarva, not from a firm that promises to be cheaper or more environmentally friendly.

There are four rates for residential supply service

charges: residential (Rate R), residential space heating (Rate RSH), residential time of use non-demand (Rate R-TOU-ND) and plug-in vehicle charging (Rate PIV). Each of those rates has a summer rate (June-September) and a winter rate (the rest of the year).

Rate R has two distribution rates, one for the first 500 kWh, and another for excess beyond that of Delmarva Power's. These distribution rates don't, at the moment, differ. Rate RSH has four distribution rates, for the first 500 kWh in summer, another for excess beyond that in summer, the first first 500 kWh in winter and the rest in the winter. Once again, the excess rates are the same as the base rates, but the winter rates are more expensive.

Rate R-TOU-ND has two distribution rates, with the rate for peak usage about 2.4 times as expensive as off-peak rates. Rate PIV has two distributions rates, with the rate for peak usage about 3.5 times as expensive as off-peak rates. The peak PIV rate is Delmarva's most

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expensive rate on the flier, and the off-peak rate the least expensive. It's their way of encouraging people to charge their vehicles overnight.

But, wait there's more! This writer examined his Delmarva Power bill and failed to find his rate code. But knowing that he doesn't have space heaters nor a vehicle charger and didn't sign up for non-demand or an alternative supplier, he's concluding that he's a basic Rate R.

His bill for electricity includes 11 charges: customer charge, distribution charge, low-income charge, green energy fund, renewable compliance charge for wind and solar, renewable compliance charge for qualified fuel cells, distribution system improvement charge, energy efficiency surcharge, EDIT credit six year, transmission capacity charge and standard offer service charge.

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# GOVERNMENT & POLITICS



photo link: City of Milford



# DSHA PARTNERS WITH HABITAT FOR HUMANITY ORGANIZATIONS TO EXPAND HOMEOWNER ASSISTANCE FUND PROGRAMS

## STAFF WRITER

The Delaware State Housing Authority (DSHA) today announced a partnership with all three Habitat for Humanity organizations in Delaware to administer a \$3 million grant program to help eligible Delaware homeowners who need to make critical home repairs, but have been unable [...]

*The post [DSHA Partners With Habitat For Humanity Organizations To Expand Homeowner Assistance Fund Programs](#) appeared first on [State of Delaware News](#).*



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# EDUCATION



photo link: [Milford School District](#)

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# SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS QUESTION VALUE OF STATE ASSOCIATION

BY JAREK RUTZ

Some Delaware school district boards are questioning what they get from their membership in the **Delaware School Boards Association**. The cost of joining is not insignificant.

In **Caesar Rodney School District's** July board meeting, John Marinucci, former executive director of DSBA, said it would cost the district \$10,500 per year to be part of the association, That includes a discount on using BoardDocs, a use-friendly way to post district business, such as school board meetings and materials.

Christina School District's fee would have been \$16,500 this year, but the board voted to discontinue it.

In **Red Clay's** July 13 meeting, board members Kecia Nesmith and Cathy Thompson butted heads because Nesmith wanted to table the vote on whether to join the association so she could get further information about it to judge if it's worth the financial expenditure.

"I'm more in favor of moving forward right now and I think it's important that we join because we're the largest school district in the state of Delaware and we've gotten a lot of benefits out of the DSBA," Thompson said in the meeting.

Thompson said the board, which was not a member last year, missed out on opportunities to network at the National School Board Association conference, having a voice in the legislature and board training activities.

David Tull, the new executive director of the association, was a former school board member in Seaford School District. He said the national conferences he attended were definitely one of the highlights of his time on the board and a great way to learn from boards across the country. He also cited the extensive training and development opportunities available as members of the association.

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Most Delaware school districts are members of the association. Christina School District's board voted in July to quit the association with a vote of four to three.

Board member Naveed Baqir said the national conference was helpful, and he's a fan of the state association's leadership. He was concerned, though, about the \$16,500 that the district must pony up to be a member and he believed it was not worth it.

"I think it's a wasteful expenditure that we should spend elsewhere," he said.

**Association benefits**

One of the bigger and most apparent benefits of joining is having access to BoardDocs. That software portal contains information about board meetings, including dates, agendas, action items and supporting documents, public comment details, livestream links, board policies, meeting minutes, archived audio recordings and more. BoardDocs already is a common way to get information about specific boards of education throughout the state.

"We typically charge a one-time, non-recurring \$1,000 startup fee but that will be waived," Marinucci told Caesar Rodney when they were debating whether to join.

While districts do not have to be a part of the association to have BoardDocs, joining gives them about a \$4,000 discount on the service, Marinucci said.

In Red Clay's July 13 meeting, Thompson argued that the district received a lot of benefits when it was a member. Those benefits included professional development for board members, school board boot camp, financial training, special education training and more. A representative from the DSBA regularly gives testimony and

public comment on bills during the legislative session.

One of the best parts is the automatic membership in the national association and its annual conference, Thompson said.

"You see school board members from all over the country," she said. "You get to talk with them, you hear the latest issues, you learn topics that you hadn't thought about, or maybe had thought about but are given direction with them."



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# HEALTH



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### BY TERRY ROGERS

The popular Yes2Health program offered through Delaware Breast Cancer Coalition has planned new sessions for fall. Participants in Yes2Health walk for 30 minutes each week and then meet weekly on Zoom to discuss fitness, health and wellness as part of the free 12-week program.

“The Yes2Health courses have been so delightful, and yes—life-changing for me,” Neita, a new member of Yes2Health said. “I’ve struggled with losing weight, eating was always a chore. I hated cooking; was not good at it; and the food I prepared did not taste good, so I didn’t enjoy it. I ‘thought’ I was eating healthy because I would buy ‘healthy’ carry-out options. The three Yes2Health programs I participated in helped so much with overcoming those challenges.”

# NEW SESSIONS PLANNED FOR YES2HEALTH PROGRAM

The Yes2Health in the Kitchen program is a no-cost, interactive online cooking class. During each live class, participants learn new culinary skills while preparing a healthy recipe together during the class. Each class is led by Dee Iraca, founder of Eat Well Chef, a registered dietitian nutritionist and professional chef.

“In the Yes2Health in the Kitchen series, Dee taught us basic, simple cooking techniques, as we prepared the recipe along with her,” Neita said. “Her tips have made a world of difference for me. Finally, I’m learning how to cook without drying out or burning my food.”

In addition to learning from Chef Dee, Neita also participated in the Yes2Health Active Cooking program, something she named the “Cookbook Club” where participants cook all month long then meet to discuss their experiences and tips!

“The class introduced me to delicious, healthy recipes. The most recent cookbook was definitely restaurant-quality meals, yet easy to prepare. I particularly enjoyed the Zoom calls where each of us shared how we prepared the recipes and Dee would chime in with suggestions,” Neita said. “I learned how to make substitutions; I learned I didn’t have to follow the recipe exactly but discovered how I could use up the veggies and meats I already had on hand. I learned how to mix

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and match sauces and dressings to create my own meals. It opened my eyes to better ideas for cooking. I've been sharing my results with friends, and they are now remarking 'But you used to hate cooking!' Not anymore! Now, I'm replacing my favorite carry-out meals with ones that I make myself, much more healthily, thanks to the Active Cooking program."

Neita also enjoyed that the participants were given suggestions for recipes to try each month and that she could talk about those recipes in the next session. This encouraged her to actually prepare the meals so she could share her experiences.

"The Yes2Health self-guided series showed me that I was not eating as 'healthy' as I thought I was. I was eating the same 3-4 veggies, fruits, and meats. I've learned how a variety of fruits, vegetables and proteins each supply necessary nutrients," Neita said. "The program taught us how much of each we should be eating each week to make sure we're getting those nutrients. The course also taught us proper portion size, and how to develop an Action Plan to remake our eating and activity habits.

"I feel like I'm finally fueling my body with the right foods. The 'icing on the cake' so-to-speak, is that the Zoom calls are very well-organized, the facilitators are very pleasant and patient, and the hand-outs are also well-planned and very useful."

Neita explained that there are many reasons to join Yes2Health but found that the cooking classes were very beneficial to her. She learned how to cook healthy meals that were delicious, improved her cooking skills, dis-

cussed recipes with others who were also health-minded and discovered how easy it was to improve her eating habits.

"Not only did I get lots of useful information I can turn to again," Neita said. "I have actually been inspired to cook."

Members of the community are invited to sign up for the Yes2Health groups starting Sept. 12 at no-cost. In addition, a Yes2Health Retreat, a complimentary interactive wellness retreat, is planned for Sept. 27 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Kent County Public Library. For more information on DBCC's Yes2Health programs and how to register for free visit: <https://debreastcancer.org/programs/yes2health/>.



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# SPORTS



photo by Ben Fulton





# SPECIAL OLYMPICS SUMMER CAMP PLANNED FOR CAMP BARNES

## STAFF REPORT

Special Olympics Delaware is hosting its annual summer camps on Aug. 5-7 and Aug. 13-15 at Camp Barnes in Frankford. More than 60 athletes and dozens of counselors are attending each session as the organization celebrates its 22nd summer of offering the traditional camp experience.

Summer camp is one of the most anticipated events of the year for Special Olympics athletes of various ages and abilities. Campers participate in several traditional camp activities while enjoying the opportunity to reacquaint with and meet new friends during the three-day, two-night camp experience.

“Our summer camp is an opportunity for our campers and counselors to interact with each other in an inclusive setting while enjoying a traditional camp experience,” said Nate Threatts, SODE staff member and camp director. “For many of our campers it’s the highlight of their summer, as they get to experience all the fun that a summer camp can provide and create memories that they talk about all year long until they return again.”

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# DAVID BAYLOR NAMED NEW DIAA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BY NICK HALLIDAY

David Baylor, a former state trooper, was appointed DIAA's new executive director July 17.

Born and raised in Wilmington, he graduated from Saint Mark's High School before he entered the U.S. Navy. After leaving the military he spent

23 years with the Delaware State Police.

Baylor said the job intrigued him.

"I worked up and down the state in a couple of different roles including when I was a state trooper," he said "I thought it would be a good opportunity to help make things better for the student-athletes in our state."

Baylor spent years working closely with the Blue Hen football team, especially with freshmen and new student-athletes, in the areas of community service, personal development, leadership, and social responsibility.

He recently served as director of consumer affairs at N-K-S Distributors where he worked with educational institutions at all levels in the area of alcohol awareness and education and the prevention of underage drinking.

He also has served as a member of the boards of the Catholic Youth Organization, Saint Mark's High School, Bear YMCA, the Delaware Mentor Program and the Delaware Crime Stoppers Board.

Since he has been in office, Baylor said he's learning how everything works. "It's like starting anywhere new," he said.

When asked what he's liked so far about the position, Baylor said, "I am excited about the relationships with the athletic directors, coaches and principals of the schools so we can come together as one unit."

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