

MILFORD LIVE

photo link: Marcia Reed

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Headlines	2
Culture.....	5
Business	8
Government & Politics	14
Education.....	19
Health	21
Sports.....	24
Police & Fire.....	28
Stay Connected	31



Nitro Nitra



Independence Commons Deed Restrictions Adjusted



Football Falls to Penn

HEADLINES



photo link: [Ruth Houston-Behrens](#)

LADYBUG MUSIC FESTIVAL SPOTLIGHT: NITRO NITRA

BY TERRY ROGERS

The Ladybug Festival will return to Milford on Saturday, Sept. 30, the largest concert in the country featuring a 100 percent female-fronted lineup. The festival, which began as a downtown block party, has grown to become one of the most popular events in southern Delaware. The festival is brought to Milford by Downtown Milford, Inc. (DMI) in partnership with Gable Music Ventures. This year's headliner, Nitro Nitra, will play on the Main Stage at 8 p.m.

"I've been singing all of my life," Nitra, lead singer of the band, said. "It's always been my first love and my number one ignite of passion within me."

Nitra leads a band she says is filled with "heavy hitters," including Scott Brady, lead guitarist; Jimmy Church, rhythm guitar; Dan Martino, bass; and Corey Gilmer, drums. The band began with Church and Nitra doing duet acoustic songs before evolving into the "rock

band of my dreams," Nitra said. Nitra explained that the best part about every performance is the performance itself. "It's an amazing feeling to be able to forget who you are, leave the mind, be in the now and just allow all that love and passion that lives within you set itself free on stage," Nitra said.

Originally from the east side of Wilmington, Nitra attended the Charter School of Wilmington. She moved to different states for a while before returning to Wilmington in 2018. The biggest challenge she faces is finding ways to promote herself as an independent artist.

"Finding ways to fund the project is a challenge," Nitra said. "So, you just have to be grateful for what you have, embrace the challenges and just keep moving upwards."

Nitra stated that they have worked with Gable Music Ventures in the past on different gigs around Delaware.

see page 4

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from page 3

“So, we were aware of the amazing events that they put together for the music community,” Nitra said. “When we heard of the Ladybug Music Festival, we sent in our submission and were selected for the Wilmington event. After an electrifying performance, we were asked to headline for Milford as well. We were so honored to have this opportunity. We give everything we have on that stage every time we perform, so to have this opportunity is an incredible return on what we invest.”

This will be the first time Nitro Nitra has performed at the Milford festival and Nitra stated she is excited to explore the town. The Ladybug Music Festival on Sept. 30 will be from 4 to 9 p.m. with seven stages throughout town. In addition to the Main Stage, there will be a stage located outside of My Sister’s Fault, on North Walnut Street, in the side yard of Gallery 37, the La Hacienda patio as well as bands located in the Library Amphitheatre. An indoor stage will be located at the Music School of Delaware. The lineup for the festival can be found on the [Ladybug Music Festival](#) website. A raindate has been set for Oct. 1.



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CULTURE



photo link: [Second Street Players](#)



BY TERRY ROGERS

Nearly 200 truck drivers from across the state and region will converge at the Delaware State Fairgrounds on Saturday, Sept. 23, to take part in a police-escorted 29-mile scenic ride through Kent County. Drivers mingle and enjoy breakfast beginning as early as 8:30 a.m. followed by a short program at 9:30. Trucks depart the Fairgrounds at 10:30 and do not return following the convoy.

The Truck Convoy, celebrating its 21st year, is part of a national effort to raise money and awareness for Special Olympics. Here in Delaware, more than 4,200 athletes of all ages participate in a year-round program of sports training, competitions, and health-related activities. In 2021, 186 trucks participated in the event.

Delaware's event is organized by Delaware Law Enforcement, with Walmart and Perdue serving as presenting sponsors. In addition to the Fairgrounds and Delaware Law Enforcement, supporters include the city of Harrington, Delaware Department of Transportation, Delaware Electric Co-Op, WBOC 16, WRDE and Fox 21 Delmarva.

TRUCK CONVOY FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS CELEBRATES 21ST YEAR

“To all the drivers, owners, and companies of all types and sizes who supported this event—THANK YOU SO MUCH!! There is no way to really put this into words, but Special Olympics Delaware has honestly been a ‘game changer’ for our son and our family,” Tim Collins posted on social media after last year’s convoy. “Athletes like our son wouldn’t have these experiences and the SODE support framework without kind folks like you making a difference! We sincerely appreciate you! He loved watching all of you hit the road there at the fairgrounds this morning. It was awesome to see—walking around all of your trucks—and after the ceremony seeing (and hearing!) 35 minutes straight of diesels and air horns rolling out! To all the law enforcement and other event volunteers—thank you as well.”

Even those who participate in the convoy find the event uplifting and moving. After last year’s event, Miles Burke commented that he was “glad to be a part of it.”

“FedEx partnering with S&T Trucking was honored to be a part of the day,” Barbara Voyton commented. “It was an amazing day that I was proud to be part of.”

SODE commended those who not only participate in the convoy, but also support the efforts of the athletes

see page 7

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photos by Gervasio Ruiz

This organization is supported in part by a grant from the Delaware Division of the Arts, a state agency, in partnership with The National Endowment for the Arts. The Division promotes Delaware arts events on www.delawarearts.com Delaware Division of the Arts

who depend on the program throughout the year.

“As we enter the third decade of this event, we continue to be amazed by the outpouring of support from the trucking community from both near and far,” said Corinne Plummer, director of special events for Special Olympics Delaware. “The amount of money raised is spectacular, but what’s just as important is the opportunity for the truckers to meet our athletes who are at the event serving in volunteer roles and cheering them on as they leave the fairgrounds. The drivers will tell you that meeting the athletes is their biggest thrill and why they continue to support this event year after year.”

Delaware State Police warn drivers that traffic could be delayed as the convoy makes its way throughout the area. The planned route has the convoy heading from the Delaware State Fairgrounds on Chambers Road and turning right on Tower Hill Road. It will then turn right on Farmington Road, turn left on Walt Messick/Vernon Road and right on Whiteleysburg Road. From there, the convoy will turn right on Burnite Mill Road (Route 12), right on Dupont Highway (US 13) and officially end in the vicinity of the main entrance to the fairgrounds on Route 13.

Upon completion, trucks will not return to the fairgrounds for a post-convoy festival. The route will allow participants to safely continue north or south and enjoy the rest of their day. Organizers advise that the route is subject to change. This route is subject to change. Any modifications to the route will be shared with all event participants.

Residents who live along the convoy route are encouraged to stand or sit outside and wave as the convoy passes. In past years, supporters have lined roads and streets, encouraging the big trucks to sound their air horns or simply wave as they drive by.

Nationally, the Truck Convoy was founded in 2001 by Norm Schneiderhan, a corporal with the Orange County (FL) Sheriff’s Department. Schneiderhan, whose family is involved with the trucking industry, was inspired by the powerful impact Special Olympics has had on his life through his participation in the Law Enforcement Torch Run. For more information, visit <https://sode.org/truck-convoy-2-2/>.



Milford School District Homecoming Week Festivities

SEPTEMBER 26 - SEPTEMBER 30



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Homecoming Parade
Friday, September 29
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Homecoming Game
Friday, September 29
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Saturday, September 30
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photo link: [Downtown Milford Inc.](#)



MICHAEL'S MOVING CLOSER TO OPENING

BY TERRY ROGERS

With a sign going up on the outside of their new location, the Milford Michael's store came closer to opening last week. According to Rebecca Talley, external communications specialist, the craft company is looking forward to opening the doors to the new store.

"I'm happy to tell you about our forthcoming store in Milford," Talley said. "We expect to open late November or early December 2023. We plan to hold a soft open and then will host a grand opening event for the community, which will be a lot of fun and include product demos, free crafts and giveaways."

Michael's which will open at 650 North Dupont Boulevard, next to Harbor Freight, features arts and craft supplies. The Milford store is a smaller format than other stores in the area.

"We are always looking to bring Michael's and the joy of creativity to more communities and found that Milford was a great fit for a new, smaller format store," Rachel Peterson, head of Corporate and Product Communications, said when the company announced the opening of the Milford location. "The new store will be a sleeker, simpler Michael's featuring self-checkout registers, a Michael's Custom Framing Center and a curated assortment of our seasonal décor and the most popular supplies and componentry across arts, crafts, framing, floral, kids crafts, DIY, yarn, beading and scrapbooking products to inspire creativity in the surrounding area."

Michael's was founded in 1973 by Michael J. Dupey, a Dallas businessman, who renovated a failing depart-

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ment store. Dupey created a department store featuring craft supplies, operating the company under Dupey Enterprises, a company owned by Dupey's father, Jim. The company grew into a chain which continued to be controlled by Dupey Enterprises for 10 years before it was sold to Sam Wyly. Today, the company features over 1,200 stores throughout the United States and Canada.

"We will be hiring for dozens of temporary, full- and part-time roles over the course of the year," Talley said. Anyone interested in applying for a position can visit www.michaels.com/jobs.

MILFORD
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STAFF REPORT

The Greater Philadelphia and South Jersey Postal Customer Councils (PCCs) are extending a cordial invitation to all business partners to attend the 2023 National Postal Customer Council Week celebration, planned for Thursday, Sept. 21, from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Riverwinds Restaurant, 1075 Riverwinds Drive in West Deptford, NJ. This event includes a video message from Postmaster General Louis DeJoy, remarks by USPS leadership, lunch and door prizes. The theme is “Delivering for America: Vision. Strategy. Action. Attendees are asked to register via email at sylvia.i.herron@usps.gov.

The keynote speaker for the event is USPS Vice President, Engineering Systems Linda Malone. She is responsible for the design, development, deployment and lifecycle support of mail processing systems and associated software as well as retail and delivery technology, scanning solutions and the development of the

USPS SET TO CELEBRATE NATIONAL POSTAL CUSTOMER COUNCIL WEEK

next generation delivery vehicles. Most recently, she led the standard work instructions component of the COVID Test Kit Fulfillment Center initiative.

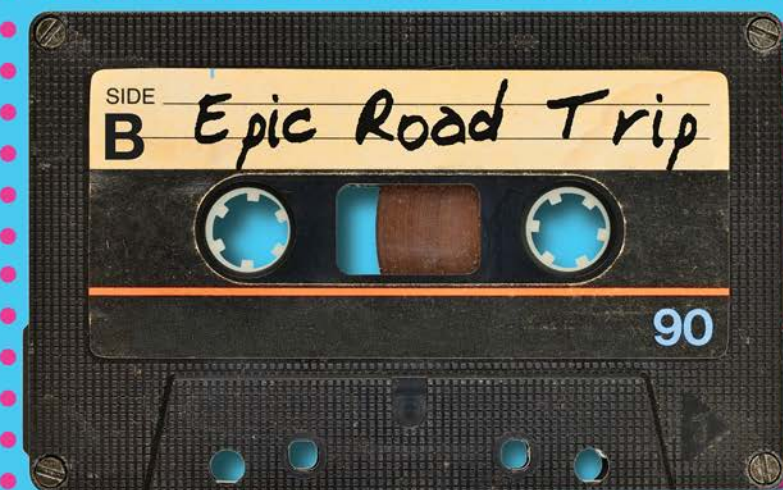
PCC Week is an annual celebration that creates opportunities to hear from postal and industry leaders at the local level about USPS business strategies and best practices in the mailing and shipping industry. This network represents an important partnership between the Postal Service and industry members who share a common goal—achieving success in today’s competitive marketplace.

A PCC is an organization that helps foster a close working relationship between USPS and commercial mailers and business partners with the goal of sharing information about postal products, programs and services through an educational and collaborative environment. PCCs provide the opportunity for business mailers to network and collaborate with their colleagues in a casual setting.

Join the Postal Customer Council community for this fun and informative event. Come network with fellow business partners, hear first-hand what’s happening at the Postal Service, and learn what PCC membership can do to enhance your business.

see page 11

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see page 10

The United States Postal Service is an independent federal establishment, mandated to be self-financing and to serve every American community through the affordable, reliable and secure delivery of mail and packages to nearly 165 million addresses six and often seven days a week. Overseen by a bipartisan Board of Governors, the Postal Service is implementing a 10-year transformation plan, **Delivering for America**, to modernize the postal network, restore long-term financial sustainability, dramatically improve service across all mail and shipping categories, and maintain the organization as one of America's most valued and trusted brands.

The Postal Service generally receives no tax dollars for operating expenses and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations.

For USPS media resources, including broadcast quality video and audio and photo stills, visit the **USPS Newsroom**. Follow us on **X/Twitter**, **Instagram**, **Pinterest** and **LinkedIn**. Subscribe to the USPS **YouTube** channel and like us on **Facebook**. For more information about the Postal Service, visit www.usps.com and www.facts.usps.com.



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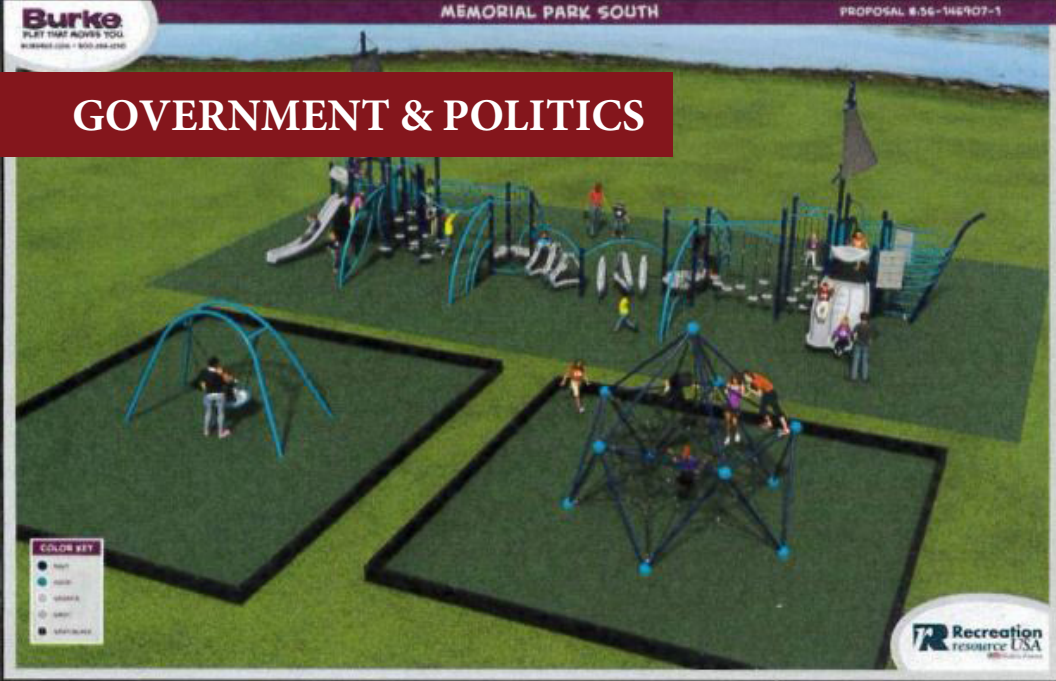
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GOVERNMENT & POLITICS



photo link: City of Milford



BY TERRY ROGERS

The new playground in Memorial Park broke ground several months ago and the city has been working diligently to get equipment installed and prepare the area for families to enjoy. However, Brad Dennehy, director of Parks and Recreation, explained to Milford City Council that the rainier than normal summer this year highlighted a few issues that needed to be addressed. This resulted in Dennehy coming to council and requesting change orders that would increase the cost of the playground by \$64,000.

“So there’s two issues there. One is usability of the playground. We don’t want it to get flooded out in a big rainstorm. And the other issue is where we’ve got this climbing apparatus. There’s quite a steep bank behind it,” Dennehy said. “There’s an access road that sort of comes along the top of the playground towards the Salvation Army. And I have a concern there as a potential safety hazard for the kids. And I’m always concerned with children’s safety, but also liability issues with the city, potential for damages to come back on us.”

MEMORIAL PARK PLAYGROUND CHANGES TO ADDRESS DRAINAGE, SAFETY ISSUES

After discussions with the contractor and James Puddicombe, city engineer, Dennehy explained that there were solutions to the issue. It was recommended that catch basins and additional grading beyond the initial design and the construction of a retaining wall would address both the drainage issue and the safety issue.

“I hate to be in front of council asking for money for a change order. But I think it’s in the benefit of the city for us to do it now,” Dennehy said. “We’ve had a lot of grant funding for this and Lou Vitola [finance director] has assured us that we have money to pay for it. The total we are asking for is \$64,000 That’s \$36,00 for the retaining wall and \$28,000 to address the additional drainage issues.”

Councilman Todd Culotta asked if this was an issue that should have been discovered during the design phase of the project.

“I am really hesitant to say that because I don’t know, Councilman Culotta. Doing two wrongs don’t make a right and if you’re a contractor and you discover something, you’ve got to address it,” Dennehy said. “So, I can’t go on record and point the finger of who’s to blame for it. But I know we’ve got an issue there. And I think if we don’t address it now, we’re going to have to address it after the fact.”

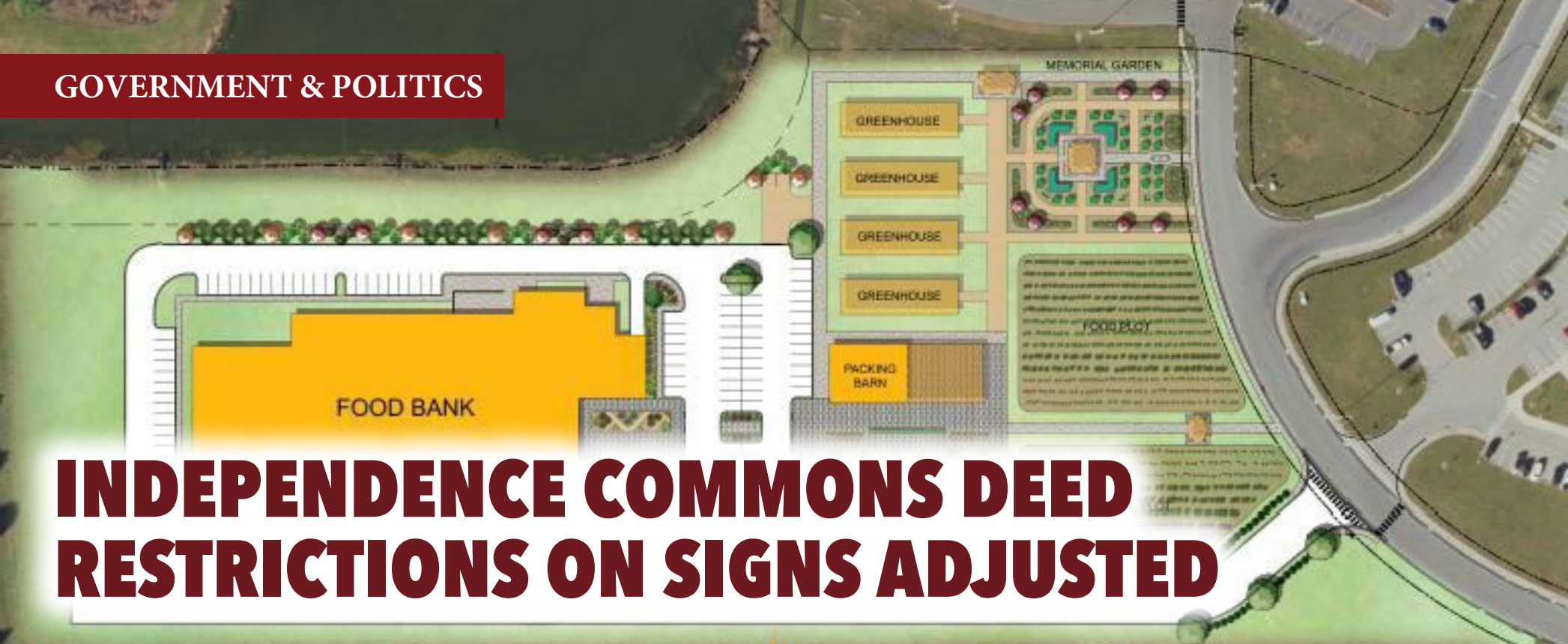
Councilman Andy Fulton pointed out that if council did not address the issues now, they could face problems similar to those that occurred with the basketball courts.

“If we wait till after the fact on this, we’ll have another basketball court issue where we have a facility that could be used by the youth and it becomes unusable because of the wash out and because, if everybody remembers what happened with the basketball courts,” Councilman Fulton said. “And this is a playground and any equipment in there and the mulch, the care and feeding of that area. If it washes out, one you’re going to be spreading that material all the way down the hill. And two, it could possibly make some of those new devices become unsafe as time goes on with the washout. So, I think you definitely want to address this because if you wait until after, it costs more later.”

Councilman Jason James agreed with Councilman Fulton. “Everything goes up when you wait. The important thing is that we said this was important to the community. It was unforeseen. It was discovered. Either we address it or say we’re not going to use the playground,” Councilman James said. “I mean, to me, that’s where we are right now and there’s RTT funding.” Vitola confirmed that there was RTT funding available if it was needed to complete the project.

There was a public comment portion after the discussion. No one from the public commented for or against the approval of the change order. The measure passed unanimously.

MILFORD
LIVE



INDEPENDENCE COMMONS DEED RESTRICTIONS ON SIGNS ADJUSTED

BY TERRY ROGERS

At a recent meeting, Milford City Council agreed to adjust deed restrictions related to signage for lots purchased in Independence Commons. The change was based on a request from the Food Bank of Delaware who are building a new facility in the business park.

“Recently, we have been working on our Comprehensive Signage Plan application and it has been determined that we will need additional assistance from the city in carrying out our intended plan,” a letter provided to council from the Food Bank of Delaware said. “The deed restrictions for the Independence Commons Business Park lay out specific requirements for signage. Based on our intended usage of the facility and to ensure that it is welcoming to the myriad of visitors that will utilize it, our signage needs are greater than what is currently allowed in the deed restrictions.”

City Planner Rob Pierce explained that this issue could be rectified by adding a section to the restrictions from the deed and using the city’s regular sign ordinance in the business park. He felt that the deed restrictions, which were implemented prior to the city’s current sign ordinance, were geared toward smaller office-type buildings.

“These, in my opinion, were geared primarily to smaller office type uses that didn’t really have the need for a lot of campus signage,” Pierce said. “Like where delivery trucks need to go, where the pedestrians need to go, where are the different functions within a larger scale project. What staff is recommending is adding a paragraph H, which would state signage may differ from the sign requirements if approved by City

see page 17



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- BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF DELAWARE

Council as part of a comprehensive sign plan conditional use application as outlined in chapter 230 zoning.”

Councilman Todd Culotta asked why a resolution needed to be adopted rather than just look at each request individually.

“Under Article Nine, I believe in the restrictions, titled Amendments, it says these covenants may from time to time be amended by resolution. Such amendment supplement or change may not become effective except by majority vote of city council,” Pierce said. “So, when we outlined this many years ago, and we have amended it in the past, I think it’s been amended twice in the last eight years, we are basically just following that article, as to how we have to go about amending on this.”

Councilman Mike Boyle was concerned that adopting this change would impact the sign ordinance in the city code. Pierce explained that this would require the signage in Independence Commons to follow the current zoning code.

“Right now, it’s subject to the sign ordinance and the seven deed restrictions,” Pierce said. “So, there’s additional items in here related to sign material types, which architectural features. These are things that we don’t get in our sign code and the zoning ordinance. There’re also limitations that differ in terms of how large a sign can be than what’s in our code. So, these deed restrictions are more restrictive than our current zoning ordinance. So, by adding this paragraph in it would give an applicant an opportunity to seek deviations from these deed restrictions, but it still would have to comply with our sign code.”

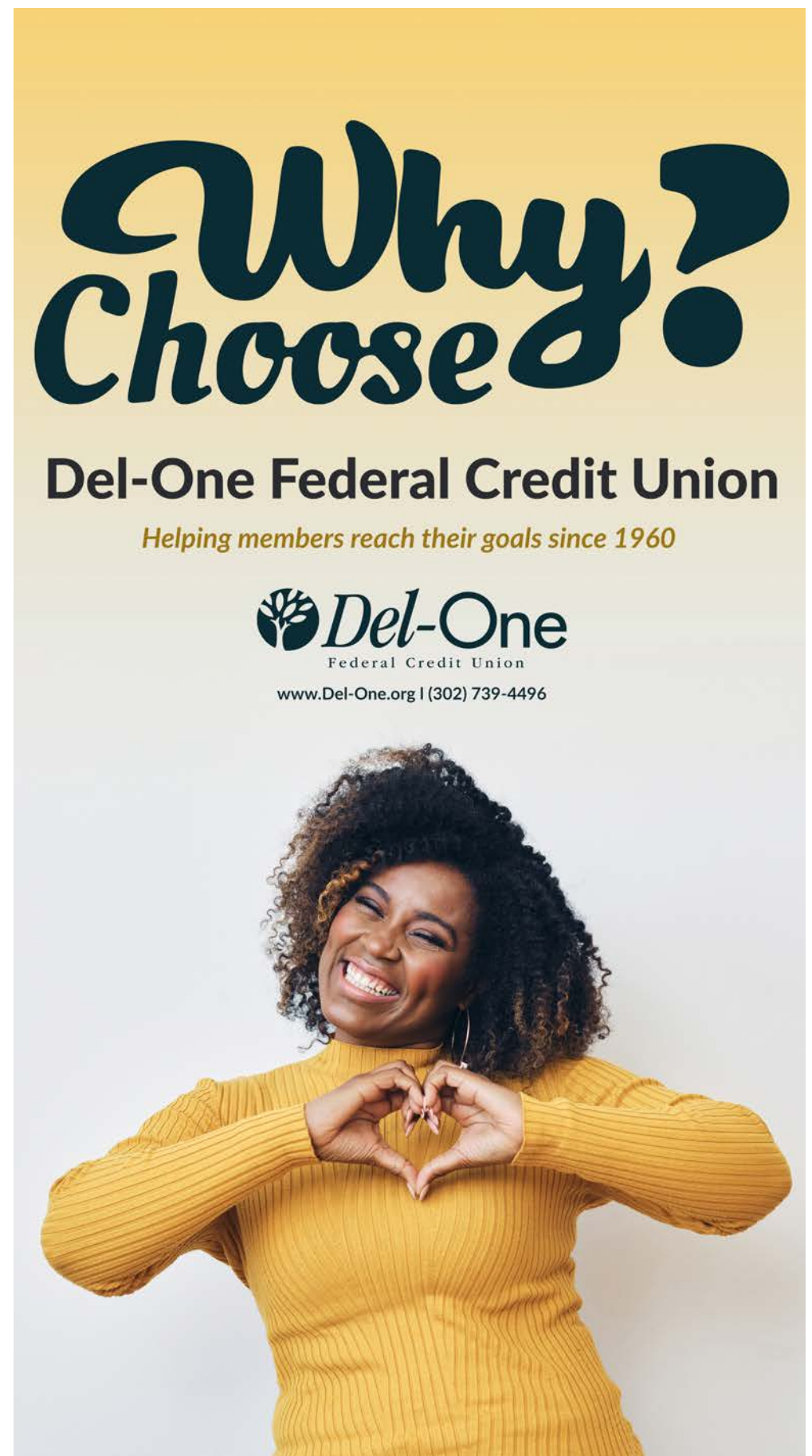
Councilwoman Katrina Wilson confirmed this would only impact Independence Commons, stating that council had spent a significant amount of time creating the current sign code and she would not want to contradict anything in it. “I don’t want to have our citizens come in after the fact and say they asked for something they didn’t get versus something we are allowing ourselves to do,” Councilwoman Wilson said.

City Solicitor David Rutt explained that this change would not have an impact on the sign ordinance, but only change the restrictions in the deed that the city put in place.

“The city, at the time, only allowed the one freestanding sign, two square feet,” Rutt said. “But what this does now is as a conditional use, if it’s approved by City Council, that could allow the sign ordinance to be the standard as opposed to the deed.”

Pierce stated that the signage requests would be subject to public hearing. “So, again, this just adds some flexibility and with the deed restrictions it’s not up to the department staff to determine whether it meets the deed restrictions,” Pierce said. “They’re gonna come before the Planning Commission and City Council, with a public hearing that’ll be advertised and notified in the newspaper, send out letters to the adjacent property owners. And in this particular case, we’ve notified everybody within Independence Commons of the request. But it would still have to go through a public hearing process and if there’s any objections to what is being proposed, that could be discussed. And at that time,”


see page 18



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from page 17

Councilman Jason James pointed out that the dynamic of Independence Commons has changed so it made sense that the deed restrictions and sign requirements may change as well.

“Thank you for the consideration of this resolution. While it does affect everyone in the Independence Commons business park, it would allow a pathway for us to bring an application forward to address the signage that we would need for our upcoming parcels,” Chad Robinson, vice president of External Affairs at the Food Bank, said. “So, we encourage your support of this resolution tonight, and I look forward to seeing you again in the next few weeks.”

Rutt asked if these were just directional signs on the 11-acre parcel owned by the Food Bank and Robinson stated that the resolution would actually pertain to anyone in the business park.

“As it relates to the Food Bank project, it would be directional signs in our project, but that isn’t really what you are voting on,” Robinson said. “

Pierce stated that the sign package created by the Food Bank would be reviewed at a later date, but that what was before council was a resolution to allow the deed restrictions to be overridden with a conditional use request. Rutt stated that this would allow other owners within the business park to also request conditional use related to signage. Mark Whitfield, city manager, commented that there was no sign ordinance when the deed restrictions for Independence Commons were created.

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photo link: [Milford School District](#)

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MSD ANNOUNCES HOMECOMING FESTIVITIES

STAFF REPORT

Milford School District recently announced homecoming festivities for the 2023 school year. As in past years, the week leading up to homecoming will include Spirit Week Dress Days. According to the district, each school will send home details about dress days to celebrate homecoming.

Friday, Sept. 29, will be the Homecoming Parade. The parade will step off from the old Milford Middle School at 5:30 p.m. and travel through downtown Milford. The parade ends at Briggs Stadium where the Milford Buccaneers will take on the Concord High School Raiders in the homecoming game with kickoff at 7 p.m. The Homecoming King and Queen will be crowned at halftime.

On Saturday, Sept. 30, the Homecoming Dance will be held in the Milford High School Cafeteria starting at 7:10 p.m. Tickets for the dance will be on sale during lunches at Milford High School.




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HEALTH



photo link: Bayhealth Medical Center

SECOND ANNUAL VILLAGE FEST PLANNED FOR SEPT. 22

BY TERRY ROGERS

Celebrating their second year in Milford, the Milford Wellness Village will hold its second annual Village Fest on Friday, Sept. 22, from 4 to 8 p.m. The event will include entertainment, food trucks and activities for the entire family.

“Community collaboration have been the core of everything we do at the Milford Wellness Village,” Lon Kieffer, executive director of Milford Wellness Village, said. “We partner with like-minded organizations and service providers who share the desire to improve the health and well-being of residents. The festival is our way of thanking the community for its support and doing it in a fun, healthy way.”

Kieffer explained that they increased the number of service providers who are participating in Village Fest to provide educational opportunities to attendees regarding overall health and wellness.

“As the Milford Wellness Village continues to grow, we can provide the community with more health and wellness services through our expanding partnerships,” Kieffer said. “We’ve also added additional food and entertainment offerings, including double the number of food trucks over last year and many more games and activities for children.”

Food trucks that will be onsite for the event include House’s BBQ, Uncle Bernie’s Steak Shack, Cucina Veloce, Kapelpa and Cinnabon. Free hot dogs, chips and water will be provided to children under the age of 10 while supplies last. Music will be provided by DJ Snead of the Good Time Machine starting at 4:30 p.m. and the Funsters will play starting at 6 p.m. Adults who are 21 and older may purchase locally brewed beer in the beer garden, provided by Mispillion River Brewing.

see page 23



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Proceeds from the sale of the beer will benefit Education Health Research International.

“Bring a chair and relax while you enjoy some music, the kids can play games or bounce in the bouncy houses available,” Kieffer said. “This is just the start of what we plan to offer. We plan to host health fairs within the Milford Wellness Village facility during the winter/spring seasons. It will be an opportunity for community members to engage directly with our 20+ service providers in a more interactive manner. We want Village Fest attendees to learn about the service providers that are based within Milford Wellness Village and know there are many health and wellness options to explore all in one location right in their backyard.”

Milford Wellness Village continually adds new service providers as spaces become available to lease.

“We have also rolled out our WeCare Services program, which is virtual and in-person courses providing participants with essential tools and resources for effectively managing chronic disease as well as other fall prevention programs,” Kieffer said. “We provide the flexibility for residents to choose between in-person and virtual classes, allowing them to select the option that best fits their needs.”

For more information on Village Fest, visit [HERE](#). To learn more about the WeCare Services program, visit [HERE](#). Milford Wellness Village is located at 21 W. Clarke Avenue. Village Fest will be held at the corner of King’s Highway and Williams Street, between Jefferson Avenue and King’s Highway.



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SPORTS



photo link: [Kevin Eickman](#)

FOOTBALL FALLS TO PENN 41-7

BY KEVIN EICKMAN

Traveling up to play Class 3 William Penn was always going to be a challenge, going against a school that has an enrollment of 2,600 always is. To be able to compete against a team of that size and skill, the Buccaneers needed to be perfect and needed the breaks to go their way. This past Saturday, Milford had neither as it fell to the Colonials 41-7 on a bright and sunny afternoon in New Castle County. From the onset, Penn challenged the new-look Milford offense to move the ball against them, choosing to kick off to the Buccaneers to start the game. And while Milford was able to move the ball at times, every time it had an opportunity to score, someone or something got in its way.

It started on the game's opening drive when an apparent fourth and short conversion near midfield was called back because of a seldom called "pushing the runner" penalty. At other times, it would be a false start penalty on third and short which short-circuited a drive deep in Colonials' territory.

On the other hand, Penn seemed to always come up with the big play just when it needed it. The majority of those plays would come through the air, with freshman quarterback Josiah Everett putting Delaware on notice that there may be a rising star in the making. When the dust had settled, Everett had tossed four touchdown passes of 25, 46, 59 and 75 yards. "You really have to tip your cap to No. 4 [Everett], he made some huge plays today (Saturday). While we had some coverage issues, he has the makings of something special," Milford coach

Jed Bell stated.

While it was a loss, there is certainly an asterisk you could place next to it, Milford never quit. Even when Penn had extended its lead to start a running clock at 41-0, the Buccaneers kept fighting. The Buccaneers would finally cash it in late in the fourth quarter on a one-yard dive from senior Richard Shorts, who had a solid game on both sides of the ball.

As Bell addressed his team following the game, he pointed out that nobody likes losing. "We didn't come up here to lose, but we did. There was a lot of good that we did today, and we will build off of that, we will also fix the mistakes today as well. Let's not forget, this is about raising our standard today, and even in a loss we did that. Each and every one of you could have just tossed in the towel today but you didn't, you kept on battling, that is the culture we are building here."

Milford, with a 1-1 record will use this game as a dress rehearsal for this Saturday as it travels back up to New Castle County to battle an 0-2 Delcastle squad for another noon kickoff this upcoming Saturday. "Traveling up north for noon starts are difficult, but like I told the team, it was easy then everyone would be able to do it. We aren't looking for easy, we are looking to improve, every snap, every practice, and every game."

While the Buccaneers are a work in progress, how they respond after a tough loss like this will say a great deal about them. The hope is that they will come back and play to the form they demonstrated in their 42-0 season opening victory. How they respond is entirely up to them.



[CLICK FOR MORE IMAGES](#)

FIELD HOCKEY OFF TO HOT START

BY KEVIN EICKMAN

Over the last few years, one of the key areas needing improvement has been finishing in the circle. While the Buccaneers had been getting the ball in the scoring area, finishing has been a problem. While Milford is only three games into the season and though it is early, it has definitely improved in the area. After three games, the Bucs stand at 3-0 while outscoring their opponents 20-2. While two of the games had been against teams a bit underwhelming, the finishing has been much improved. “We have been working very hard on scoring and it has improved. We still have a great deal of work ahead of us, but we are heading in the right direction,” coach Andrea McPike said.

While you need to score to win a game, you also need character, and this Buccaneer team might just have it. With five seniors on the squad, Milford has a mixture of leadership, enthusiasm and accountability. This became evident in the Buccaneers’ home opener against rival Lake Forest. After trailing in the first half 1-0, Milford would take little time equalizing as senior Madisyn Hitchens scored less than two minutes into

the third quarter.

Milford would then gain the lead as senior Catlin Cromer would score with just under five minutes remaining in the third quarter. While it looked as if Milford was ready to take control, Lake would not go away quietly as it scored with just 45 seconds remaining in the quarter to equalize.

Following a scoreless, tense fourth quarter, the game entered sudden death overtime. It was there that Milford demonstrated another trait, character. “The girls knew that they should have already been headed home with a win. They got together and said they were going to settle the issue right now.” McPike stated. That would be exactly what they would do as senior Erin Dunlap would score just 34 seconds into the period for the victory.

Milford’s next two wins would be on the road, with a 9-0 triumph at Appoquinimink and 8-0 at Sussex Tech. Scoring 17 goals in two games is difficult, speaking with Hitchens, a team captain, she attributed the quick start to the team’s togetherness. “There is no drama on this team, it is all about doing your job and helping your

teammate do their job better as well. This is all about being a team, a family. That is just what we are, a family.”

Another element that presented itself in back-to-back shutouts is the defense’s commitment to improve. Speaking with senior captain Carley Mackert she stated that the defense can be attributed to one thing “Getting better. Our goal is to get better every practice, every game, every chance we get. This is a long season, so we have a lot to get better at.”

Milford will have some tough games ahead and will need to keep on improving if they want to get to the next level. “This team has put in so much work, we are one of the smaller teams in terms of players so conditioning is a big thing for us. Everyone worked hard over the summer, put in the effort and needs to keep doing that if we want to compete against the top-level programs. I believe this team has the heart to do that, I look forward to seeing how we respond as we face some very challenging opponents in the future.” McPike concluded.

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MILFORD PARKS AND RECREATION ANNOUNCES FALL SPORTS PROGRAMS

BY TERRY ROGERS

Milford Parks and Recreation announced its fall sports programs for 2023. Programs for the upcoming season include field hockey, soccer and flag football.

“We are excited to have kids back enjoying our fall sports this year,” Nancy Martino of Milford Parks and Recreation said. “We have a few spots left for signups which can be done at the Milford Parks and Recreation office located at 207 Franklin Street or online. Our hours are 8 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.”

Field hockey sessions began Sept. 10 and will run through Oct. 22. Sessions are held on Sunday afternoons at the Milford High School field hockey turf field. Beginners are from 1 to 2 p.m. and intermediates from 2 to 2:30 p.m. The sessions are for girls aged 7 to 12 and

the cost is \$50 per participant.

There are several leagues available for soccer through Milford Parks and Recreation. All practices and games are held at the Tony Silicato Memorial Park Soccer Fields. Although practice begins sooner, games do not begin until Sept. 23. The leagues are co-ed with five- and six-year-old children playing on Tuesday nights from 5 to 5:45 p.m. starting Sept. 12 and running until Oct. 17. The seven- and eight-year-old league practice Tuesday nights from 5:45 to 6:30 p.m. starting Sept. 12 and running until Oct. 28 with games on Saturdays.

“Soccer players aged 9 and 10 will practice Thursday nights at 5 p.m. starting Sept. 14 and running through Oct. 28,” Martino said. “Games are Saturdays at 10 a.m. The 11- to 13-year-old group will practice Thursday

nights from Sept. 14 through Oct. 28 from 6 to 7 p.m. with games on Saturdays.” The cost for soccer for children five and six is \$50 while all other leagues are \$60 per child. Some soccer leagues have waitlists to join, so it is recommended parents call Milford Parks and Recreation to see if their child’s age group has openings.

This year, Parks and Recreation will offer a tennis program for children aged 7 to 14 to teach the fundamentals of the game. The program began Sept. 11 and runs until Oct. 25. It will be held at Milford High School from 5 to 6:30 p.m. There is a waitlist for this program and the cost is \$60 per person.

An Adult Pickleball League has also been formed through Milford Parks and Recreation for those ages 15 and up. The league plays at the Bicentennial Park pickle ball courts on Monday from 5 to 7 p.m. and began on Sept. 11, running until Oct. 30. The fee is \$30 for individuals and \$60 to register a league. Those who sign up as individuals will be partnered with another individual player for the duration of the league as it is a doubles league.

Teams play one game per week and it is not a USAPA sanctioned league, which means it will not operate under the same constraints. The league was developed to allow players at all levels to play under a leaderboard system that gives everyone an opportunity to have success. A formal explanation of the leaderboard system will be sent with more information regarding the leagues operation upon signing up. Paddles are not provided. There is a waitlist for this program as well.

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POLICE & FIRE



photo link: Vincent J. Deskiewicz Sr.

SUSSEX COUNTY GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ARRESTS SEAFORD MAN FOR DRUG DEALING

BY TERRY ROGERS

Delaware State Police arrested 41-year-old Eric Davis of Seaford for drug charges Thursday morning.

On Sept. 14, at approximately 10:30 a.m., the Sussex County Governor's Task Force was conducting patrols in the vicinity of an unoccupied property located on the 22000 block of Neal Road in Lincoln. This area has been a frequent site for illegal drug activities involving Eric Davis. While patrolling the area, detectives observed Davis arriving at an abandoned property in a Chevrolet Silverado. They then witnessed what seemed to be several drug deals. The detectives approached Davis and detained him. During the detention, they saw drugs in plain view on the center console of his vehicle. The detectives subsequently obtained search warrants for Davis's vehicle, the abandoned property and a camper on the property. The search led to the recovery of the following evidence:

- 26,013 bags containing approximately 182 grams of suspected heroin
- 4.13 grams of crack cocaine
- Over \$1,000 in suspected drug dealing proceeds
- Numerous items of drug paraphernalia

Davis was taken to Troop 4, where he was charged with the following crimes:

- Possession With Intent to Deliver a Controlled Substance in a Tier 3 Quantity (Felony)
- Possession of a Controlled Substance in a Tier 3 Quantity (Felony)
- Possession With Intent to Deliver a Controlled Substance (Felony)
- Possession of Drug Paraphernalia - 2 counts

Davis was arraigned by Justice of the Peace Court 3 and committed to Sussex Correctional Institution on \$100,000 cash bond.

The post [Sussex County Governor's Task Force Arrests Seaford Man for Drug Dealing](#) appeared first on [Delaware State Police—State of Delaware](#).



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NEW SIGNAL PATTERN ON SE 2ND AND MARSHALL STREET

BY TERRY ROGERS

Milford Police Department is warning motorists that the traffic signal at Southeast 2nd Street and Marshall Street became a four-way red flashing signal rather than a working signal as of Sept. 18, 2023. Motorists are reminded that a four-way red flashing signal must be treated as an all-way stop and that pedestrians still have the right-of-way in the intersection.

This change has been implemented by DelDOT for one year to determine its safety and operational effectiveness.



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