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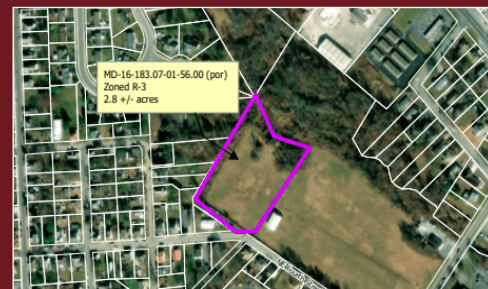
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Pallet Village Locations Discussed



City Celebrates Public Power and Customer Service Week



Bucs Sink Vikings 48-22



HEADLINES



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BY TERRY ROGERS

Several months ago, Springboard Collaborative, who operates a transitional housing pallet village in Georgetown, provided information to Milford City Council on how its village operates. Council has expressed interest in creating such a village in Milford to try to address a growing homeless population. The three locations included a parcel of land off of Milford Harrington Highway near the city substation, the location of the current police station when it is vacated after the new one is complete or an approximate three-acre parcel next to the new station.

“We had a presentation last month with Springboard Collaborative. And I guess I’d like to expand upon that conversation in terms of Council’s desire, whether or not you do want to partner with Springboard, and what we’ve put together is some city parcels that may be options for the location for a pallet village,” Mark Whitfield, city manager, said. “And if you want us to pursue any of these or other ones that you may have, that might be private property options where we could reach out to a private property owner. But I guess the first question is,

PALLET VILLAGE LOCATIONS DISCUSSED AT CITY WORKSHOP

is this something that you want to pursue with Springboard?”

Councilman Mike Boyle commented that this was something the city needed to look into as it had been discussed at several meetings. Councilman Todd Culotta expressed a few concerns about the project.

“I agree with Councilman Boyle. There’s a lot of moving parts here that impact the decision. I think Springboard Collaborative is certainly a worthy organization. I have been down to where they are. It’s like our discussion with marijuana. It’s not this itself. It’s how it impacts what’s around it,” Councilman Culotta said. “And what that means is that we all have a heart to help those that need it. And I think this is a unique model. I think there’s a lot of things that have to be worked out. You know, some of the options on here. Mark, just kind of touched on it though. I don’t know we need to be in the business of transitional housing.”

Councilman Culotta felt that working with a private partnership, one that would lease land to a group like Springboard was a better solution than using city lands for a pallet village. He also felt that locating the village near a more commercial area rather than residential was a better option.

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Fur Baby Pet Resort Owner, Dog lover

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PET RESORT

from page 3

“If we argue that the southeast part of town is really residential and not commercial, we’ve had this debate more than once. And why aren’t we talking about down there? Let me ask you a question,” Councilman Culotta said. “If it should be down there, then we should just get over it. And Archie (Milford mayor Archie Campbell), I’m gonna pick on you a little bit because you said in the paper that you know, the NIMBYs are not my backyard. It maybe they just have to get over it. Well, what if we propose putting it next to Hearthstone or Meadows at Shawnee? That is a residential area, and this is a residential project. I don’t care how you want to look at it, whether it’s emergency or not, it’s residential.”

In addition to concerns about how the pallet village would be received in some areas, Councilman Culotta was also concerned with reports that Georgetown bypassed its systems to install the village in its town.

“They got it through Georgetown while bypassing a lot of the system. I can’t imagine us doing that here and then they bypass Planning and Zoning, we bypass the Board of Adjustments under the guise of it’s an emergency,” Councilman Culotta said. “That’s not totally fair to, first of all, people that follow the rules to do things, whether it’s business or residential. So, there’s a lot of things, a lot of moving parts here. The spirit of what they’re trying to accomplish certainly is admirable, how we go about doing it. And in comparing Georgetown to Milford, Georgetown, the one they have its location really is not close to a lot of residential. There’s some, but not a lot, especially close to more commercial or open area. And in Milford, maybe it’s

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our own fault making Milford a nice town where land is valuable. A lot in Milford is \$50,000, any way you slice it. So where do you put this? It's not that it's not worth doing. And the only way to get it done is by putting it on municipal land."

One of the benefits of the location of the pallet village in Georgetown is that it is close to services needed by those who are dealing with homelessness. He felt that Milford should consider those locations when selecting where to put transitional housing as a pallet village was to be used as transitional, not permanent housing.

"I think I said that at the end of that meeting, services, services, services was critical. Services have to be near the facility or on site. I mean, you're right. It has to be on or near," Councilwoman Katrina Wilson said. "But we, most of us, or I'll say me, always have publicly said we want to do something to help the less fortunate. The homeless. And, you know, I hope in my lifetime that we can do this. We all knew that the real issue would be where, we all knew that. Where's the best place? And so, I mean, I think this is a good start, to identify a piece of property that could accommodate them."

No matter where the pallet village was placed, someone would be unhappy with that location, Councilwoman Wilson pointed out. "It's not saying that that's the only spot, but I don't care where we put them, somebody's not going to be happy. There's going to be someone that's not going to be happy with it and gonna say we're going to have to take the brunt of that," she stated. "So I hope and pray that we can be collectively be in agreement whenever we decide on where it's going to go because

you know, hopefully, doesn't break us down and to divide what we kind of hope for to accommodate the homeless."

Mayor Archie Campbell agreed that the location had to be near services because most transitional housing required that the residents participate in certain programs or services.

"If they refuse to take some kind of service, they're not allowed on that. So they have to be able to have transportation here. They need to be able to be around where they can get food or food can be delivered to them. So it's not an easy task. But I know Dover is doing something now, coming up pretty soon. So it's gonna be interesting to see how that falls out. Because keep in mind, too know the pallet village from Georgetown," Mayor Campbell said. "But if you remember that Chad Hudson also talked about there's a new type of building that they can use and the reason we use the palette city was because that can get broken down in an hour. And then we can use that property if let's say we get rid of everybody. Everybody gets placed. I know out of the 40 people in Georgetown, 21 of them have now permanent jobs. Ten of them now have part-time jobs. So it's showing improvement. But the key is they have to have services and they have to be willing to take the service. So then it comes down to is if they choose not to participate."

Although the pallet village is successful in Georgetown, Mayor Campbell stated that there are still homeless in the town and that this would not resolve the issue completely.

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CULTURE



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

MILFORD MUSEUM TO HOLD GHOST WALK TOURS

BY TERRY ROGERS

One of the Milford Museum’s most popular events, the Ghost Walk Tours, is planned for the fourth year. Join the Milford Museum for an unforgettable evening of spine-tingling thrills and chilling tales on Saturday, Oct. 21. The first tour will begin at 5:30 p.m. with tours continuing at 30-minute intervals. The last one will begin at 8:30 p.m. Immerse yourself in the haunted history of Milford as our expert guides lead you through the darkened streets and eerie corners of the town where attendees will likely encounter a few of Milford’s “ghosts.”

Experience the supernatural side of Milford as the group explores haunted landmarks and share bone-chilling stories of ghosts, legends and mysteries that have shrouded our town for centuries. Skeptics and believers will find the ghost walks intriguing and fascinating.

The museum is looking for volunteers to serve as actors and tour guides for the walking tours. Anyone who is interested can contact the museum at 302-424-1080 or via email at info@milfordmuseum.org. They can also visit the museum Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

Don’t miss this unique opportunity to delve into Milford’s haunted past. Tickets for the event are \$20 and can be purchased online at [HERE](#). The tours will begin at the Towers (101 NW Front Street) and end at the Causey Mansion (2 Causey Avenue). Since it will be dark, please bring a flashlight or use your cellphone flashlight. Costumes and masks are encouraged! For more information, please contact the Milford Museum at (302) 424-1080, tom@milforddemuseum.org.





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BY TERRY ROGERS

In an exciting first, OperaDelaware will be partnering with the city of Milford and the historic Causey Mansion for a free Pop-Up Opera performance on Saturday, Oct. 14 at 1 p.m. The event is designed to highlight Milford's rich cultural and artistic presence in Delaware.

"It is a hub for arts lovers," said Kerriann Otaño, OperaDelaware's Vice President of Engagement, "I knew that the very first time I visited Milford and we're delighted to bring opera to this community."

The historic Causey Mansion, located at 2 Causey Avenue, will serve as the idyllic backdrop for the opera performance. With live landscape painters in the gardens and a cash bar raising money for Milford's Santa House, a downtown holiday tradition, audiences are invited to bring a picnic blanket or a lawn chair and settle in for an afternoon of art and opera. This event is free to attend with a cash bar on site. Free parking is available off-site in all city lots.

OPERA DELAWARE FREE EVENT AT CAUSEY MANSION

"We are excited to bring OperaDelaware to Milford and provide our beautiful location for the event," Joe Phillips, co-owner of Causey Mansion, said. "We are also thrilled that proceeds from this event will help support the Santa House in our downtown."

OperaDelaware has been a Wilmington staple for over 75 years. Thanks to the addition of the Mobile Opera Stage and Pop-Up Opera, a necessity of the pandemic that turned into a vital tool for community engagement, OperaDelaware has been living up to its name by bringing opera to every county in Delaware. OperaDelaware partners with community organizations, restaurants, schools and more to make opera accessible, affordable and approachable statewide.

Causey Mansion is one of the most well known historic homes in Milford and is currently operated by Phillips and Jan Broulik. The Santa House is operated by Downtown Milford, Inc. (DMI), is volunteer run and operates from Small Business Saturday (the Saturday after Thanksgiving) until Christmas Eve. Santa and his elves welcome children of all ages to visit, have their photo taken and enjoy a holiday treat. Visits are free, but donations are encouraged. Known throughout the state as River Town, Art Town, Home Town, Milford celebrates the beauty of its natural resources, the ingenuity of its people and its commitment to quality of life.



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MR. MORIBUND'S THEATRE OF TERROR ANNOUNCES OCTOBER SHOW

BY TERRY ROGERS

The popular live show Mr. Moribund's Theatre of Terror has announced their October show at the Riverfront Theatre. The show will feature the 1959 horror classic *House on Haunted Hill*, and show dates are Friday, Oct. 13 and Saturday, Oct. 14.

"I'm very excited to present one of my favorite horror classics of all time," said show creator and performer W.J. Walton. "'House on Haunted Hill' still gives me chills after watching it dozens of times, and I can't wait to share that with our audience, the Moribunch!"

The shows will each feature a screening of the film, along with live performances by the Theatre of Terror cast, live music and comedy, a costume contest, raffles and audience participation. The "Moribunch" (fans of the show) have the opportunity to win one of a series of Moribund cereal boxes filled with prizes, along with other treats offered by local businesses, in the raffle that benefits True Colors, a charity aiding homeless LGBTQ+

teens and youths.

"The shows are events I look forward to every year. It's such a great time. Just like the horror hosts you see on TV but live and much more entertaining," Teresa, a fan of the show, said. "Lots of laughs, great music and audience participation. This small-town troupe works hard to give us quality entertainment and it shows in the imaginative details. We're very lucky to have a show like this in our area. Highly recommended for loads of family fun."

Since 2015, Mr. Moribund's Theatre of Terror has presented a series of live shows at the Riverfront Theatre. The shows are modeled after the classic horror host television programs of the 1950s through today, and feature a classic film from the golden age of monster movies along with comedy sketches, live music and talent performances, costume contests, audience participation and more. The shows often feature addi-

tional attractions, such as a macabre art show, art vendors, face painting and more, in the lobby and outside of the venue to enjoy before the show.

"We don't do commentary during the movie like Mystery Science Theater, but we do spoof the movie in our comedy segments. The movies are very campy. In the past, we have shown 'The Tingler', 'Earth vs. Spider', 'The Brain Eaters' and 'Robot Monster.' You get the combination of a classic horror movie mixed with live entertainment and audience participation."

Tickets are \$5 per person and will only be sold at the door. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the show begins at 7:30 for both Friday and Saturday shows.

Walton initially hoped to continue "Mr. Moribund's Monster Ball," a mini festival held on the front lawn of the theater and in a portion of the park across the street. The Monster Ball featured artists, authors and crafters of all sorts of macabre arts, plus live music on the theater patio. However, due to circumstances beyond his control, he made the decision to cancel the ball and hold a larger one next year.

"I regret to make the announcement that we will be canceling the Monster Ball for this year," Walton posted on social media. "Some recent requirements have made it difficult for me to keep the event legal and safe for everyone involved. After our October show, I will begin preparing for a bigger and better Monster Ball in 2024, in another location. I'd love for all of you to attend. I will be posting updates on social media as I have them. If you would like to volunteer for Monster Ball 2024, or have any advice or guidance on event organization, please contact me on [Facebook](#)."

MILFORD
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BUSINESS



photo link: Marcia Reed

MILFORD POSTPONES DECISIONS ON MARIJUANA SALES

BY TERRY ROGERS

With the recent legislation passed by the state of Delaware which would make recreational marijuana use legal in the state, Milford City Council, like many municipalities in the state, discussed what parameters the city needed to establish in order to address potential sales of marijuana in city limits. City Planner Rob Pierce explained that the Delaware code left some decisions up to both the county and the municipality.

“So, keep in mind those regulations relate to medical marijuana. So, there’s two different distinctions here. The second, more recent Delaware law that was enacted related to recreational marijuana,” Pierce said. “That section of the Delaware code also provides some guidance as to what local control can be enacted. The Delaware code basically says a municipality may prohibit the operation of a marijuana cultivation facilities, marijuana product manufacturing facilities, marijuana testing facilities or retail marijuana stores through the enactment of an ordinance or through an initiated measure. A municipality or county may also enact

ordinances or regulations that are not in conflict with this chapter or are in conflict with regulations enacted by the commissioner governing the time place manner and number of marijuana establishment operations.”

Pierce continued, stating that marijuana sales would be considered retail, much like tobacco and firearm sales. Alcohol sales are governed differently based on the principal use of alcohol at the location.

“So, if you have a microbrewery or distillery, we have some requirements for that, if it’s a brew, pub, or restaurant, it could be allowed in the C3 zone. If you have a liquor store, tavern, or other type of use, those are all uses that are specifically mentioned in our zoning code,” Pierce said. “Under different areas, but primarily within the commercial districts into the microbrewery and distilleries are allowed in some of the industrial areas or business park areas as well.”

The city has made revisions to their alcohol code over the past decade, Pierce stated. In 2015, a code as adopted

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that prohibited establishments involving the sale of alcohol, either on or off premises, within 1,000 feet of any public or private school daycare, childcare center or church.

“We found that that was prohibitive for some economic growth in certain parts of the town. Because, especially in downtown, you’re pretty much within 1,000 feet of a school, church or daycare wherever you are,” Pierce said. “Council had added some language that would loosen that up a little bit, basically stating you can have an alcoholic establishment in those 1,000 foot setbacks if for consumption on site, the alcoholic beverages were produced in that location. Last January, or two Januarys ago, when we updated the zoning code, the planning commission reviewed the prohibited section and felt you know, why even have that statement in there? Why not just allow the State Office of Alcohol Beverage Commission regulate where alcohol could be sold. So, we removed that entire section related to alcohol from the zoning code in January of 2022.”

Pierce then explained the multiple agencies that controlled the sale of alcohol in the state. He explained that this was coming to council in order to obtain council’s preference for how to establish the code that would cover marijuana sales.

“I think that the recreational marijuana should be handled in the same way as the alcohol is handled,” Councilman Andy Fulton said. “That’s a wide goal for our community. And I think it will increase revenue. So that’s my input. I agree.”

Mayor Archie Campbell pointed out that many of the beach communities were establishing legislation that would prohibit the sale of recreational marijuana.

“First of all, I would like to tell Rob he did a very good job on the presentation. And very good on talking points for us to discuss, he set it up perfectly. And in my opinion, I do agree with Andy, why make it difficult,” Councilwoman Katrina Wilson said. “The way marijuana is grouped, state level with alcohol, and tobacco, I think that we should set a precedent because being the first doesn’t bother me, for us to be the first, matter of fact, I think it makes good sense. We have to be consistent; we have a grower here. There is already a marijuana growing facility here. Therefore, we accepted that part of it. Why wouldn’t we allow it to be up there, be a retail location here to sell the product? So, I agree with letting it go forth as retail within Milford with the guidelines that are already set up by the state?”

Councilman Jason James expressed some concerns related to marijuana that did not exist as far as alcohol.

“We should allow the sale of recreational marijuana, but regulate it based on hours of operation and number of establishments and I think we should take a look at this because though it is grouped with alcohol it is a little different because there’s going to be a curve that needs to take place with marijuana,” Councilman James said. “This is still new. We can do it, but we need to do it carefully because there is some criminal element attached to marijuana at this time. I’m sure it will fade. But that’s not where we are right now. ...

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STAFF REPORT

Two Milford families, the Shupes and Helmicks, have joined together to create The Farmacy Market in downtown Milford. The Farmacy will be a food market located at 28 S. Walnut Street that partners with local Delmarva growers, farmers and artisans with a focus on ethical, sustainable and clean farming practices.

The owners of The Farmacy Market have carefully curated a selection of local foods sourced from trusted farmers and producers who share their commitment to sustainability and quality. From fresh, locally grown produce, to responsibly sourced meat and seafood that supports the environment, they are dedicated to offering products that are not only delicious but also align with the values of the growers and farmers across Delmarva.

Chantel and Patrick Helmick, owners of Helmick's

TWO LOCAL FAMILIES COLLABORATE TO CREATE THE FARMACY MARKET

Homestead, have honored this philosophy personally as their family saw healthy foods create a path for recovery for their entire family as Chantel overcame a Hodgkins Lymphoma cancer diagnosis in 2016.

"I knew that I wanted to provide my wife with the most nutritionally dense food possible to support her recovery," said Patrick. "She healed faster, was healthier and our gardens became a stress reducers and a mission for us."

In 2020, the Helmicks launched their small business, Helmick's Homestead, with a mission to help their community become healthier through the availability of fresh, nutritious foods. The business is a staple of the Riverwalk Farmers Market on Saturday mornings and is known for its weekly food donations to local organizations.

Sherry and Bryan Shupe have owned Fur Baby Pet Resort in Milford since 2011, growing the retail spot from 800 sq.ft. to a full service doggie daycare, overnight and spa of over 10,000 sq. feet. Nutrition for man's best friend has been a focus of their boutique as they offer human-grade, all-natural, organic dog food, treats and products for pets. After rehabilitating the former Milford fertilizer property that sat vacant on the Mispillion River for 20 years, the Shupe family began hosting farm families at their shop, including Little Wagon Produce and Helmick's Homestead.

The Shupes' commitment to providing smart nutrition to their customers and their connections with farmers led them to think of a way to expand into helping local

families through the creation of The Farmacy Market.

"We are blessed to live in a state and county where we have families that produce nutritious, healthy food right here in our communities," said co-founder Sherry. "We will provide our neighbors with access to the finest quality produce, seafood, meats, cheese, bakery, sweets and artisan products while promoting the philosophy that 'food is medicine.'"

The Farmacy Market will also boast a collection of gourmet kitchen supplies aimed at inspiring families to embrace their inner chef. From high-quality cookware to specialized tools and gadgets, the store will have thoughtfully selected products that will enhance the cooking experience and make meal preparation an adventure.

As the store embraces "food is medicine", The Farmacy Market is intended to not just be a place to shop but a community hub where locals are encouraged the exchange knowledge and ideas. "We are proud to offer educational resources, cooking demonstrations and workshops on topics such as sustainable farming, nutrition and the art of mindful eating," said Chantel. "Our goal is to empower our customers to make informed choices about the food they consume and to create a positive impact on their health and the environment."

The market is expected to open in late October 2023. They will announce their opening date on [Facebook](#).

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photo link: [Marcia Reed](#)

ADU FEES DISCUSSED AT COUNCIL WORKSHOP

BY TERRY ROGERS

At a recent workshop, Milford City Council discussed fees charged to residents who are constructing Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU) on their property. An ADU is a second residence either built new or constructed in an existing garage or outbuilding. The city changed its code last year to allow ADUs in city limits as long as either the main residence or the ADU was owner-occupied. Since the change in the code, several people who have received permission to add an ADU have found the permit fees were significant. According to Mark Svaby, director of Public Works, the impact fees for an ADU can be as high as \$9,500.

“So we have a city water impact fee of about \$3,400 bucks, a city sewer fee about \$1,800. The Kent County sewer impact fee, which isn’t really negotiable anytime we’ve dealt with it in the past, if it makes sense for us to waive any fees, Kent doesn’t waive that fee, the \$3,000 per EDU,” Svaby said. “We don’t have that option. So, we just pass that along. The thing to keep in mind when we’re considering the impact fees is that sewer and

water impact fees are collected for a specific purpose and it’s to address the capacity improvements for water and sewer infrastructure. So, we’re not just trying to make money here. When there’s new impacts on the systems of sewer and water, we have to collect money so that we can address those capacity issues that are occurring with sewer and water.”

Svaby continued, explaining to council that the fees were to address additional capacity that would exist with an ADU.

“So, the primary predicate for all of the assessment of sewer and water impacts, you need to do the equivalent in an accessory dwelling unit. It’s a term used to express the load produced on a sanitary sewer system, approximately one dwelling place as further defined in Kent County rules. And we use that same standard,” Svaby said. “I mean, it’s used across the board really and we’re not alone in using that. It’s a term used to express the load produced on the water system as well as the same

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capacity charge on our sewer system. EDUs are calculated based on language found in Chapter 128. And that's in the content code. So, we use that much like other municipalities do."

Svaby presented slides that showed how the fees were broken down as well as a few that indicated what fees were optional.

"So, this is a standard that we apply and we're not alone in applying that. That's the usual. So the next few slides you're gonna see are what typically would be assessed if someone were approaching the city for an ADU. So, the first one is a typical single family detached dwelling. You've got your permit fees, the enhancement fund, water meter, issues with sewer and water backfill inspections, so on and so forth," Svaby said. "Get to the bottom where the heavy fees are, the city water impact fee, the city sewer impact fee and the Kent County impact fee. So, all those things together in this particular scenario, we're assuming this is a \$200,000 construction cost at \$2,000 per square foot and one EDU and that EDU is a norm looking to the next assumption, an accessory apartment assumption, here just looking at this same kind of things basically apply. There's a little bit less on the fees we have the permit fee, city water impacts, the city's sewer impact fee again, Kent County. Nope, we can't waive that because that's not our option. That's a \$9,500 total cost for somebody putting together something like an accessory apartment."

Svaby stated that the city was aware that for a house, the fees were only about \$1,000 more than for an ADU,

but it would be difficult to waive many of those fees.

"So, I'm glad we're discussing this again. I think the fact that we moved to an ADU language in our charter is a wonderful thing. Primarily because it's small, affordable housing, whether you're starting your career out or you're retiring or whatever it might be. It does provide affordable housing. I think the common issue here that the impact fees, whether you have them or not, won't impact the affordability of it. That's subjective. Usually, the affordability is based on market rate," Councilman Todd Culotta said. "Here's the issue I have. If I understood, we could compartmentalize this in two ways. There are existing units that you're converting like your garage and then there's something you're going to build new on your property much like Mr. Purcell did. Okay. And so you can have this as two separate arguments. However, if I run plumbing from my house, from the ADU to my house and tap into my plumbing there, I use the plumbing within my property already. And I can do the same thing with electric."

Councilman Culotta continued, stating that he didn't see why there were additional fees to connect an existing garage or outbuilding to the residence.

"We say that these are two separate dwelling units. And there's no difference between a 10-unit apartment building and having this yet we make a regulation that you have to live in one. So, I don't think you can have it both ways. ...

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CITY INVITES PUBLIC TO OPEN HOUSE

STAFF REPORT

The city of Milford will host a North Rehoboth Boulevard and North Walnut Street Corridor public input meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 25, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Public Works Facility, 180 Vickers Drive. Representatives from the city and the Dover/Kent County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) will be available during the two-hour period to gather feedback from the public.

The purpose of the study is to identify gaps in the pedestrian and bicycle network and provide recommendations to enhance bicycle and pedestrian safety in the immediate area. The final report and plan documents would be used to develop construction plans for future city and state capital projects.

All parties of interest are invited to participate in the public input meeting. Questions should be directed to

Rob Pierce, Planning Director, at 302-424-8395 or rpierce@milford-de.gov.

The city of Milford, incorporated in 1807 and located in Kent and Sussex Counties along the Mispillion River, is home to 11,000+ year-round residents, 500+ retail businesses and non-profits, local restaurants, parks, trails, small town events, major healthcare providers, an historic shipyard, and its own school district. Known throughout the state as River Town, Art Town, Home Town, the city celebrates the beauty of its natural resources, the ingenuity of its people and its commitment to quality of life.



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**PUBLIC POWER
WEEK 2023**

STAFF REPORT

The city of Milford celebrated Public Power Week (#PublicPowerWeek), Oct. 1-7, along with more than 2,000 other community-owned, not-for-profit electric utilities that collectively provide electricity to 49 million Americans. “Public Power Week celebrates the community-owned electricity that the city of Milford provides to our residents and businesses,” said Anthony Chipola, electric director. “Public power puts the people of Milford first and Public Power Week gives us the chance to emphasize the advantages of locally grown, locally owned power to our citizens.”

Today, the city of Milford has two substations and nine primary power feeders. It serves 6,948 residential customers and 1,432 commercial and industrial customers.

CITY CELEBRATES PUBLIC POWER, CUSTOMER SERVICE WEEK

“Our service is reliable and safe, and we take pride in serving our friends and neighbors,” said Chipola. “The city of Milford Electric Division is proud to serve the community’s residents and commercial customers.”

Check out Milford’s Public Power Week video [HERE](#).

The city also celebrated National Customer Service Week, Oct. 2-6. The theme of this year’s National Customer Service Week was “You Make the Magic Happen” to emphasize the role of today’s customer service representative and how “magical” the experience can be if you have all the right elements in place.

Having the passion to serve Milford’s customers by supporting the city’s efforts to deliver safe and reliable power, clean drinking water, sanitary wastewater and solid waste collection and disposal by maintaining a positive attitude when facing adversity, are personal goals of every customer service professional in Milford.

“We celebrate National Customer Service Week to recognize the phenomenal job that our customer service professionals do fifty-two weeks a year and because they understand their significance to the city,” said Louis Vitola, finance director. “We applaud the value of the friendly, face-to-face, personal service our customer service professionals eagerly provide to residents, prop-

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erty owners, businesses, and industries within our city by constantly looking for ways to assist and improve.”

Public Power Week is an annual national event coordinated by the American Public Power Association in Washington, D.C. The American Public Power Association is the voice of not-for-profit, community-owned utilities that power 2,000 towns and cities nationwide. The Association represents public power before the federal government to protect the interests of the more than 49 million people that public power utilities serve, and the 93,000 people they employ. It advocates and advises on electricity policy, technology, trends, training and operations. Its members strengthen their communities by providing superior service, engaging citizens, and instilling pride in community-owned power.

National Customer Service Week was first championed by the International Customer Service Association in 1984, proclaimed a National Event by Congress in 1992 and is now celebrated the first full week of October every year.

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EDUCATION



photo link: Milford High School Band

EDUCATION

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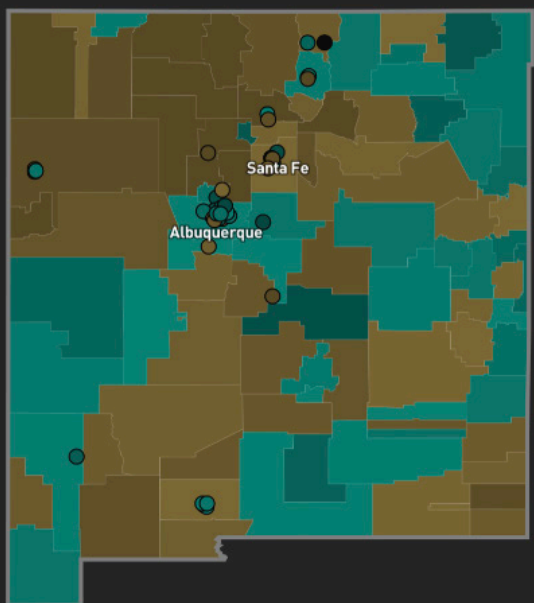
English Language Arts 34%
Early Literacy 27%

Math 25%
Science 33%

Demographic Group: All Groups

Top Performers in English Language Arts

Albuquerque Institute Of Math & Sci ≥ 80%
Estancia Valley Classical Academy ≥ 80%
Altura Preparatory School 79%
Nm School For Arts 74%



BY JAREK RUTZ

A state nonprofit focused on improving student success is trying to raise \$10,000 to create a digital proficiency map to help hold schools accountable and provide easily comparable test score information to parents. That kind of information helps them make good choices when they are deciding where they will send their children, said Britney Mumford, executive director of **DelawareCAN**.

“I think parents need to be armed with every tool that we can arm them with when they’re making what’s arguably the most important decision for their children’s future,” she said.

Pointing out low-proficiency schools is often described as a shame and blame game, she said. That’s not what the organization is trying to do.

“We’re trying to point out not failures” she said, but changes and areas where education need improvement. “Accountability works,” she said, “and what we want is for

DELAWARECAN TO LAUNCH DIGITAL SCHOOL PROFICIENCY MAP

proficiency scores across the board to improve. We really think that arming people with that data, letting people understand and getting people to understand where we’re at really is the first step in solving that problem.”

The idea for the proficiency map was inspired in part by the group’s New Mexico counterpart, **NewMexicoKidsCAN**. It launched an interactive map last year with similar goals. Its map shows all of the districts and breaks them down into individual schools and charters. The public can click on them and see all of their proficiency data, all their demographic data and, put schools side by side to compare them.

“So you can see in real time the data and geographically where all the schools are located.” Mumford said. “We said if the Department of Education isn’t going to do it, why don’t we do it?” Click to see New Mexico’s **proficiency map**, which DelawareCAN will model its map on.

DelawareCAN is in the process of raising funds to pay a vendor to build the map. It hopes to have it completed by the end of 2023.

“We’re trying to do some public crowd sourced fundraising just to show that there’s a real appetite in the

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public, so even if it's \$15 here, \$20 there just to show that this is something people want," Mumford said, "and then we're taking that information to funders."

The [yes. every kid. foundation](#) and the [Stand Together Foundation](#) are two examples of potential funders. Mumford said she hasn't reached out to groups such as the Redding Consortium or Wilmington Learning Collaborative, who get millions of state-funded dollars to focus on educational outcomes, and have their own data collection initiatives.

"We felt like we could do it on our own," she said, "but I would definitely not be opposed to any partnerships."

Mumford said parents or community members who would like to donate to the project can go directly to DelawareCAN's [website](#), but she recommends they email her at Britney.Mumford@DelawareCAN.org to ensure any gifts are earmarked for the map.



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HEALTH



photo link: [Bayhealth Medical Center](#)

HOUSTON COUPLE WEIGHT LOSS HELPS THEM REGAIN HEALTHIER LIFE

BY JAREK RUTZ

For one couple, gaining support from Bayhealth, and each other, in losing weight made for a life-changing experience. Dawn McDonnell had been looking into surgical weight loss, also called bariatric surgery, then convinced her husband, Leon, to join her in the process. A year and a half ago they began Bayhealth's Bariatric Program, a nationally accredited program which helped guide them through the pathway to surgery that ultimately led them to lose more than 200 pounds between them.

The couple joined a virtual informational seminar, then met with Bayhealth General and Bariatric Surgeon Theodoros Katsichtis, MD, FACS, DABOM, also known as "Dr. Theo"; Program Coordinator Patty Deer, MSM,

BSN, RN, CNOR, CBN; and a team of bariatric registered dietitians. They covered every detail of what to expect with the procedure and the continued measures to maintain their weight loss and overall health.

"Dr. Theo explained everything in laymen's terms so it was very clear, and he really listened to our wishes and concerns," said Dawn. "He was open about the expectations, and had a great bedside manner too."

Both Dawn and Leon had a Roux-en-Y gastric bypass procedure performed by Dr. Katsichtis. "It's done laparoscopically through five small incisions to access the abdomen," he explained. "It surgically reduces the size of the stomach to a small pouch and reroutes the digestive system to bypass part of the small intestine. This means

that post-surgery, the person feels full after eating much less and absorbs fewer fat, calories and nutrients from the food they consume."

"Gastric bypass is the second most common bariatric procedure after vertical sleeve gastrectomy. It carries a low risk of complications, leads to 70% excess weight loss and has excellent long-term results," explained Dr. Katsichtis.

Bayhealth Hospital, Kent Campus is nationally accredited as a comprehensive bariatric program by the Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Accreditation and Quality Improvement Program (MBSAQIP®). It also earned a Blue Distinction® Center for Bariatric Surgery designation as part of Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield's Blue Distinction Specialty Care program.

The McDonnells felt fortunate to be able to access such high-quality bariatric care close to their home in Houston. All the legwork and follow up Bayhealth's team did to make the experience extremely simple and convenient impressed them. "They took care of everything—from nutrition education to clearance appointments, even setting us up with a program to get vitamins mailed to our home and communicating with the insurance company to ensure coverage with no surprises regarding billing or out-of-pocket costs," said Dawn.

MILFORD
LIVE

SPORTS



photo credit: Kevin Eickman

BUCS SINK VIKINGS 48-22

BY KEVIN EICKMAN

Play after play, they just kept coming. Traveling up to Abessinio Stadium in Wilmington for yet another noon kickoff, Milford was wide awake Saturday for its battle against the St. Elizabeth Vikings. In their previous two trips north, the Buccaneers had come out flat and uninspired. This game, however, would start completely differently. Taking the opening kickoff on its 30-yard line Milford would sharply march down the field and while it failed to score the tone was set—Milford made it clear that it were going to have a huge day on the ground.

Forcing a three and out, Milford would be able to set up shop at the Vikings 39. It would take exactly one play for Milford to find the end zone, as senior Charles Shorts would take a sweep around the outside and score the game's first touchdown. Although the extra point was blocked, it was clear that there would be no looking

back for the Bucs. "Coming out alert and ready today was very important today. There is no doubt these 7 a.m. wake-up calls have been a bit taxing on us," Milford coach Jed Bell said. "It takes a lot to get ready for these early starts, but we were ready today."

On the ensuing St. Elizabeth possession, the defense would step up. With the Vikings once again in the shadow of its end zone, Buccaneer senior Neysen Legros would step in front of a freshman Cole Andrews pass, returning it 30 yards as the Bucs would double their advantage to 12-0 following a failed two-point conversion attempt.

While the Milford defense was impressive stopping the run, they showed some vulnerability in the passing game while on defense. While St. Elizabeth may have been forced into a one-dimensional offense, it would be

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Cole Andrews who would keep the Vikings in the game, especially in the first half. Andrews repeatedly scorched the Milford secondary, connecting with senior Gavin Andrews repeatedly. The combination would tally two 30-yard touchdowns in the first half, connecting on a number of other big plays as well. “We knew they were trying to get the ball to number six (Gavin Andrews), but just couldn’t stop that connection. While I haven’t looked at the tape yet, I know there is a lot to be fixed in the secondary. Our offense was running the ball so well today it didn’t hurt us, but we won’t get away with that going forward,” Bell said.

Milford would take a 34-16 lead into the locker room thanks to a two-minute drill starting at the Viking 40, senior quarterback John Hudson ran the offense to perfection. The drive would be capped off by a six-yard touchdown run by senior DenNare Horsey and a successful two-point conversion by Hudson.

In the second half, Milford continued to chew up yardage and score touchdowns. With Shorts recording his second score, senior Greg Lockett and senior Elijah Lake all scored rushing touchdowns. Milford’s only passing touchdown of the game would be early in the fourth quarter as Hudson would connect with senior Wilderson Alexandre to cap off the scoring.

Perhaps the most celebrated score for Milford would be that of Lake. Seeing his first action of the season after coming back from injury, the moment was special for him. “I would be lying if I said it was just another touchdown. It has been a long way back for me and to be able to play today meant a great deal to me. To score, that was icing on the cake,” Lake said.



[CLICK TO READ MORE & SEE MORE PHOTOS!](#)

POLICE & FIRE



photo link: Vincent J. Deskiewicz Sr.



DELDOT WORKSHOP REGARDING CEDAR BEACH ROAD BRIDGE

BY KEVIN EICKMAN

The Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) is inviting all interested parties to a virtual workshop to discuss the replacement of Bridge 3-927 on (S036) Cedar Beach Road. The purpose of the virtual workshop is to present the details of the bridge replacement and any additional information related to the project. The workshop will be available online through Oct. 24.

Citizens are invited to express their views either online or in writing, giving their reasons for supporting or opposing the proposal. Comments can be sent to DelDOT Community Relations P.O. Box 778, Dover, DE 19903 or emailed to dotpr@delaware.gov.

Impacted residents may contact the project engineer directly at marc.toussaint@delaware.gov or 302-760-2493. Visit the project [webpage](#) here.



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