

MILFORD LIVE

photo link: Marcia Reed

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March 26, 2024
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fondue. Celebrates 1 Year



City Council OK'd Projects



MMS Construction Phase to Begin

HEADLINES



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



DOORS OPEN ON MILFORD'S FIRST MEADERY

The meadery does not have food, but snacks are available for purchase and guests are invited to bring their own food into the pirate-themed bar. Everyone who enters must be 21 or older and no outside alcohol is permitted. A large pirate treasure map adorns one wall and lighting consists of small “boat-style” lanterns. One television will play movies like “Pirates of the Caribbean” and the other a video history of how the meadery was formed.

“Thank you to everyone who has supported us, our family and friends, Zack and Marissa [King], we could not have done this without them,” Jen said.

Dave echoed her sentiments.

“Zack and Marissa have been behind us every step of the way, guiding us and helping us bring our dream to life,” Dave said.”

The meadery hours will be Thursday and Friday, 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday, noon until 9 p.m. They are located at 27 S. Walnut Street, Suite 101, directly across from the First Presbyterian Church of Milford. Parking is available behind the church as well as on Southwest Front Street behind The Farmacy, Milford Tavern and LaHacienda.



BY TERRY ROGERS

Milford’s first meadery opened its doors on Saturday, March 23, with a ribbon cutting and soft opening held on Friday, March 22. What to Ferment (WTF) Meadery offers locally brewed meads as well as beer, wines and canned cocktails.

“We are excited to be here and welcome Dave and Jen Wade to downtown Milford,” Sara LeBright, executive director of Downtown Milford Inc. (DMI) said. “Dave has been doing this for about four years now and says everyone told him you guys need to open a place. It is family owned and operated with Jen and Dave working the meadery alongside Jen’s father, John.”



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MAY 20	BANNEKER ELEMENTARY <i>449 North St., Milford</i>
JUNE 17	MILFORD CENTRAL ACADEMY <i>1021 N. Walnut St., Milford</i>







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CULTURE



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STAFF WRITER

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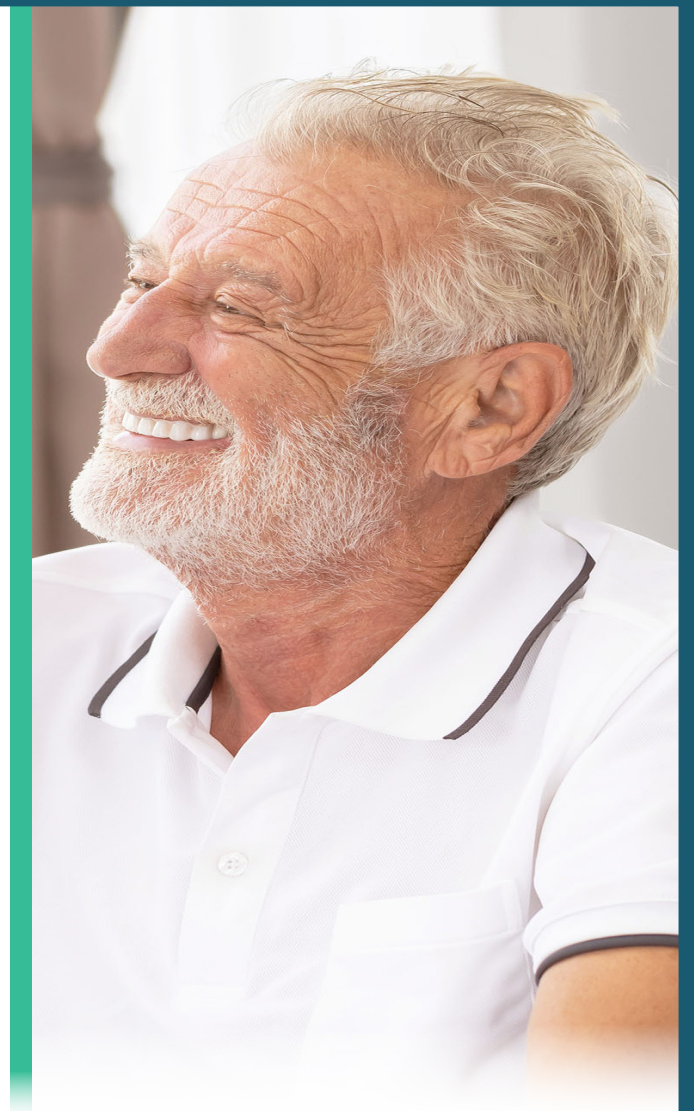
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BUSINESS



photo link: [Marcia Reed](#)



FONDUE. CELEBRATES ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY

BY TERRY ROGERS

A restaurant inspired by Zack and Marissa King’s love of fondue. celebrated its first anniversary on Thursday, March 21, with a ribbon cutting. fondue., located in Penny Square at 39 N. Walnut Street, features cheese, entrée and chocolate fondue.

“We are so happy to have Zack and Marissa in Milford,” Jo Schmeiser, executive director of the Chamber of Commerce for Greater Milford, said. “They have put so much love and attention into the town and fondue. is just the latest in their efforts to make Milford a destination.”

When the restaurant opened in Milford, Marissa stated that it was something completely new and different, offering a simplistic menu with four courses as well as a la carte options. The cocktail menu is also very unique and artsy, featuring EasySpeak spirits created at the distillery owned by the Kings.

The restaurant has become a popular destination, not just for Milfordians, but the surrounding area as well. Zack and Marissa are often seen serving food, working behind the bar or visiting with guests, sometimes accompanied by their daughter, Marley Ruth.

“I cannot say enough about what this young couple has done in Milford,” Mayor Archie Campbell said. “We could not be luckier to have them supporting our town

and helping us grow. On behalf of the entire city council, I wish them much success and happiness in the years to come.”

fondue. is open Thursday and Friday from 4 to 11 p.m. and on Saturday from 4 to 10 p.m. Reservations are not required but are recommended. There is seating at the bar where diners can also enjoy the four-course fondue experience.



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GOVERNMENT & POLITICS



photo link: Marcia Reed



ALCOHOL DELIVERY BILL FAILS DESPITE DATA SHOWING SUPPORT

BY JAREK RUTZ

A bill that would allow Delawareans to have alcohol shipped directly to their home had its “part 2” March 19 after the discussion ran long in a House committee last week. Even though legislators cited overwhelming support for the idea, the backlash from public stakeholders was too much to overcome and the bill was not released by the House Economic Development/Banking/Insurance & Commerce Tuesday.

House Bill 259, sponsored by Rep. Jeff Spiegelman, R-Townsend-Clayton, would allow farm breweries, microbreweries and craft distilleries to conduct direct-to-consumer sales of wine, beer, spirits, mead and hard cider. Consumers would have to be identified to prove they are at least 21 years old. There’s currently delivery services that deliver tobacco and vape products in which the delivery driver scans the consumer’s ID. The bill was heard in the same committee last week, but an abundance of public comments pushed the vote to Tuesday.

Spiegelman once again touted data indicating strong support for at-home alcohol shipments. A survey shows 85.6% of Delawareans support the ability to legally order alcohol and have it shipped by UPS or FedEx, and 93.1% of people that have at least one drink a month are in support. Advocates for the bill claimed that this would modernize Delaware’s consumer habits and bring the state to the current times.

Only Delaware, Mississippi and Utah completely outlaw the process, and Rep. Mike Smith, R-Pike Creek, pointed out that Mississippi has a bill that has already passed the House that would allow some shipments of alcohol.

Paul Ruggiero, president of N.K.S. Distributor’s and a representative from the Delaware Wholesalers Association said the groups oppose the bill and said it “turns inside out and runs over the wildly successful distribution of alcoholic beverages.”

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A representative from Teamsters Local 326 previously said the union opposes the bill because drivers get paid by the case, so if other services like FedEx are doing shipments, the union's drivers lose out on cash.

Michael Loiseau from the Division of Alcohol Tobacco Enforcement was against the bill, saying that shifting from the traditional 3-tiered system of alcohol distribution to e-commerce would create a lot of challenges surrounding regulations. The tiers are importers or producers, distributors and retailers. The basic structure is that producers sell their products only to wholesale distributors who then sell to retailers and only retailers may sell to consumers.

There were also concerns vocalized in public comment about delivery drivers not properly verifying the age of consumers, or not checking at all.

Alexis Nunan, a manager at Harvest Ridge Winery, supported the bill. "How am I supposed to be able to grow as a wine club, grow as a family, without being able to ship to my own state into my own home?" she said.

Another commenter, who works for a distributor, said it doesn't make sense to make it easier for people to be able to purchase as much alcohol as they want without leaving their own home, as that isn't conducive to great mental health at a time when the nation is putting mental health at the forefront of discussion.

A woman from a different winery said the bill helps the smaller businesses who won't be able to produce enough product to get into retail stores. She said the bill makes it easier to grow the business and expose the product across the state.



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BY KATIE KAZIMIR

This story includes major corrections.

The Milford Planning and Zoning Commission’s vote to recommend all agenda items at the monthly meeting March 19 moves forward three development projects within the town. The commission is in favor of the following actions:

- Milford Corporate Center at Canterbury Road and Milford-Harrington-Highway final major subdivision approval recommended.
- Red Cedar Farms on Bucks Road, north of Cedar Beach Road, final major subdivision approval recommended.

UPDATE: SUBDIVISION PROJECTS HEAD TO COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL

- Teal Creek Plaza on Del. 113 north of Popeye’s, final site plan extension approved.
- Clubhouse at Windward Grove townhomes final site plan approved.

Public Comment

During preliminary public comment, Julie Morris of Cedar Beach Road asked the commission how to move forward addressing concerns repeatedly brought up by the public, such as the trash littering through town and creation of a homeless task force.

“It’s been mentioned, you know, multiple times. How can you move that forward?” Morris asked. “How can there be a task force and with people on it that can come up with a solution and come together as a community to help?”

David Rutt, the town’s solicitor, told Morris that public comment period during planning and zoning hearings is not the time for questions such as hers.

“However, I would suggest that the way to advance this would be to have it put on an agenda with Milford City Council, and the agenda can be sent by request to the mayor, the city manager and the city clerk,” Rutt advised her. “And if there’s a council person, they

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could also request that those items be placed on the agenda by one of those three because under the city ordinance or the city charter.”

Rutt said the mayor, city manager and city clerk are the three persons who set the agenda. “So that’s where you would need to start is just get it on an agenda for the city council to open discussion on it,” Rutt said.

Milford Corporate Center

The Milford Corporate Center was up for a public hearing on a preliminary approved final major subdivision classification. The project includes the construction of a 27-lot commercial business park, water tower and new regional pump station, with agency approvals from Sussex Conservation District, the state fire marshal’s offices and the city engineer.

John Fulkowski, civil engineer with Becker Morgan Group, said the project includes walking and biking pathways along the perimeter of the site. The pathways would not be in roadways and landscape would be placed in a buffer zone between neighboring properties.

Fulkowski said public comments were taken into consideration when placing landscape buffers between the pathways and neighboring properties.

“We pulled them off of their property a little bit so people weren’t walking right in their backyards,” he said.

During public comment on the Milford Corporate Center, Morris raised concerns of possible eminent domain action taken to create these walking paths.

“Are there particular neighbors that you may need to obtain a portion of their land for the walkway?” Morris asked.

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“The walking paths are set on the city property which will be developed for the corporate center. There are no additional improvements outside of that area,” city planner Rob Pierce said.

Lucious Webb asked about parking concerns for pedestrians and cyclists in the development. “You’re gonna have bike paths and you’re gonna have walking trails. Where are the people going to be parking that come there to walk? Do you have parking set aside?” Webb asked.

Pierce replied that parking hasn’t been set aside for those using the pathway in particular, but the roadways are wide.

“So there may be some opportunity for some parking on the roadways,” he said. “This is just really to get the main framework of the development in, it doesn’t really include any of the slight improvements for the individual lots yet.”

Following public comment, the commission voted to recommend approval of the final major subdivision request.

Red Cedar Farms

Second on the agenda was Red Cedar Farms final major subdivision consideration. Tim Green with Schell Brothers, the project developer, explained that at the Bucks Road entrance to the development the right turn lane is being constructed with curb ramps compliant with the American Disabilities Act.

In addition, Bucks Road will be widened a little bit by the entrance area, Green said. The Bucks Road project is in the southeast Milford Transportation Improvement District.

“We don’t like development period. We don’t like developers period,” said Lucious Webb during public comment on the Red Cedar Farms development. “They basically ruin what God made beautiful land to be. And what the American Indians took good care of before we settlers came and took over this country.”

Webb brought up a bill sponsored by Rep. Brian Shupe (R-Milford) that would have developers be accountable for all the roads impacted by their development. (Shupe is CEO of Milford LIVE.)


“The roads are going to be impacted, The roads are just fine for the current use. Will the roads be fine for several 100 trips a day?” Webb asked. “I say hell no. Instead, they’re going to have to be improving all these other roads—Cedar Neck Road, Cedar Beach Road—and they’re gonna be taking land from us who own the land along those roads. Will we be given any funds for the impact on those roads?” Webb explained.

“The developers have been greedy and not being willing to contribute fully to the impact. It is a dismal time for Milford,” he said.

Webb recalled growing up on the property next door to the Red Cedar Farms development, riding his horse on Bucks Road when it was just a dirt road, and watching sunsets across his family’s farm.

“No longer can you see beautiful sunsets of these houses take place. The setback on this property from the farm that my brother currently resides on should be at least 50 feet because part of it is in farm preservation. Is that truly bring accounted for? Is it been respected?” Webb questioned the commission and developers.

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“Anyway, it’s a sad day for Milford and I thoroughly think you really need to think about the total impact of this project. And what the total cost is going to be for the city. It’s another road for the city of Milford to maintain and pick up the trash along it and they’re not doing it for any other street in Milford.”

Peter Goulding brought up several points: the need to look ahead at future development in the area and make sure infrastructure being put in could handle growth; the safety of only one entrance to Red Cedar Farms with 199 homes in the development should there be an emergency; and a semi-historic schoolhouse at the intersection of Cedar Neck and Bucks roads, the owners of which have recently passed.

A larger casing pipe under Route 1 is in the development plans to address the anticipated growth in the area, Pierce told Goulding.

Morris took her three minutes to comment and let the commission know that she and others in the community of Cedar Neck are against the development of the area.

“As a community, and I’ll go ahead and speak as a whole, we don’t want more people,” Morris said. “This is 200 houses going in here, most have two cars. That’s 400 more cars on our road. That’s a lot of traffic and we don’t want it. We don’t want this kind of development.”

Finally, Raymond Hendricks and James Clinging both took the opportunity to comment and thank Schell Brothers for addressing their concerns regarding trees and plants in the area, and to encourage the developer to continue to keep the need for ample foliage, particularly native plants, in mind as the project continued.

The planning commissioners voted in favor of recommending the project approved for final major subdivision approval.

Pierce reminded those attending that that the City Council made an ordinance amendment last summer which made final major subdivisions administrative.

“Generally, once you get through preliminary major subdivision, we’ve heard the comments from the initial public hearing, items have been addressed and the developer has their marching orders going forward. So these types of hearings would not occur for final approvals in the future,” Pierce said. They still would occur for the preliminary, which is a detailed plan that comes before the public.

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EDUCATION



photo link: [Milford School District](#)



MILFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL PROJECT MOVES INTO CONSTRUCTION PHASE

BY TERRY ROGERS

Milford School District recently announced that demolition on the Milford Middle School project on Lakeview Avenue ended and that the construction phase would begin. Demolition of the wings of the school began on Sept. 8, 2023, on target with a projected timeline provided by the district last year.

“The project remains on schedule and is expected to open in fall 2025,” Trish Gerken, public information officer for Milford School District said.

The social media post announcing that the project would move into the next phase was met with support from the community.

“As a former student of the middle school (a long time ago), I’m so glad they were able to keep the one part and

renovate it and use it in the new construction,” Kim Davies commented. “I’m excited to see the work begin.”

Several teachers, including Sherry McKee and Greer Stangl, remarked that it was strange seeing their old classrooms this way. Others felt that this was a beneficial project for students in the district.

“Good foundation to build a future of excellence in education and community resilience,” Jim Purcell commented. “All in for the kids.”

Charles Gray thanked the district and contractors for “toeing the line and keeping the project on course.”

The project began in 2018 with public meetings, led by Bill Strickland and a task force that included district

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staff, community members and board members. The public provided significant input into the project, overwhelmingly telling the task force they wanted it to remain an educational facility. They also wanted the building to retain as much of the historic look as possible. This request was to honor the Milford 11, the first students to attempt integration of the Milford High School in 1954 as well as the Milford 7, who successfully integrated the school a decade later.

As a result of the public meetings and task force discussions, only the old wings were demolished and the interior of the original building gutted. Although the original entrance will remain facing Lakeview Avenue, the new entrance to the building will be at what is now the back of the building. The school will house 5th and 6th grade students to reduce overcrowding at the three elementary schools as well as Milford Central Academy. The district is currently deciding on a name for the new school.



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HEALTH



photo link: Bayhealth



A NEW AGE FOR COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENINGS

STAFF WRITER

Colon cancer is the second-leading cause of cancer related deaths in the U.S. This is one of the few cancers for which we have effective tests for screening. Many people shy away from colorectal cancer screenings because of what they've heard about others' experiences but testing methods and preparation for the most common type of screening — colonoscopy — have changed in recent years. Colorectal cancer screening recommendations have also changed.

One of the most notable changes is that regular screenings should begin at age 45 instead of 50 for those at average risk of colorectal cancer. Bayhealth Gastroenterologist **Abhishek Agnihotri, MD**, answers some common questions about the screening guidelines.

“A greater number of younger people are being diagnosed with colorectal cancer,” Dr. Abhishek Agnihotri, Bayhealth gastroenterologist, said. “According to the American Cancer Society (ACS), research has found that while the rate of diagnosis has declined in those ages 65 and older, the rate for those in the younger age groups of 20-39 years old and 40-54 years old has been increasing for some time. The ACS reported in 2020 that about 18,000 or 12% of colorectal cancer cases would be diagnosed in people under age 50.”

Agnihotri explained that people may be at high risk of colorectal cancer if they have a strong family or personal history of colorectal cancer or certain types of polyps, a

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personal history of ulcerative colitis or Crohn's disease, a family history of Lynch syndrome or adenomatous polyposis syndrome, or a personal history of radiation treatment for previous cancer in the pelvis or abdomen. If you do have any of these high-risk factors, then you may need a colonoscopy before age 45.

"The ACS recommends that those at average risk who are in good health and with a 10-year life expectancy continue having colorectal cancer screenings until age 75," Agnihotri said. "Those who are ages 75- to 85-years-old should discuss if they need to continue screenings with their doctor based on assessment of their overall health. After age 85, colorectal cancer screenings aren't recommended."

Today, there are several options for colorectal screenings, including stool-based tests and visual exams of the colon. Most colon cancers start as polyps. Colon polyps are growths in the colon seen commonly, and some of them, over years may grow and turn into cancer. Stool-based tests include fecal immunochemical tests (FIT), fecal occult blood tests (gFOBT) and stool DNA tests. These tests are sensitive to detect colon cancer but may not detect colon polyps.

"The FIT or gFOBT tests are performed every year and the stool DNA tests are done every three years. Visual exams of the colon include colonoscopy, CT colonography (also called virtual colonoscopy), or flexible sigmoidoscopy. In addition to detecting colon cancer, these tests can also detect colon polyps which may then be removed," Agnihotri said. "If there are any

abnormal results from the stool-based tests or other visual exams then you will need a follow-up colonoscopy. It is important to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of different tests before deciding on which test is right for you."

Screenings can be done by a gastroenterologist, general surgeon, or colorectal surgeon and can be scheduled through Bayhealth. In the case of a colonoscopy, you may need a consult. During the colonoscopy consult, you will be seen by a physician, physician's assistant or nurse practitioner who will review your medical history, medications, any prior colonoscopy findings (if applicable) and family history. Immediately following the visit, you will speak with a surgery scheduler who will assist you in finding a date for your colonoscopy, and you will be given written directions for the diet and bowel prep you need to do the day before the procedure.

Visit [Bayhealth.org/Get-Screened](https://www.bayhealth.org/Get-Screened) to learn more about screenings. If you need help setting up a colorectal cancer screening, call Bayhealth Colorectal Screening Nurse Navigator Judy Giddens at 302-744-6098.



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A photograph of a woman with curly hair, wearing a bright yellow ribbed sweater, smiling and making a heart shape with her hands.

POLICE & FIRE



photo credit: Milford Police Department

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STAFF REPORT

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Registered Since:	May 13, 2009
In Prison:	No
Convicted Out of State:	No
Repeat Offender:	No

Police Agency of Jurisdiction

Police Agency:	DSP HEADQUARTERS
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Phone:	3026592341

BLACKSTON , RICHARD I



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Registration Information (Homeless)

Risk Level:	Tier 2 (Moderate Risk)
Verified On:	December 5, 2023
Registered Since:	June 26, 2003
In Prison:	No
Convicted Out of State:	No
Repeat Offender:	No

Police Agency of Jurisdiction

Police Agency:	DSP HEADQUARTERS
Address:	PO BOX 430 Dover , DE 19903
Phone:	3026592341

RIDDICK , MILTON L



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Design your 2024 through Intentional Business and Marketing Planning

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

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

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

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