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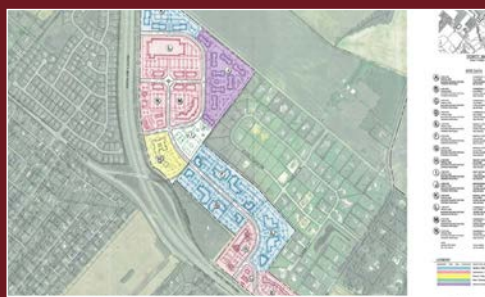
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**April 16, 2024**  
**Vol. 14 • Issue 16**

- Headlines .....2
- Culture.....6
- Government & Politics ..... 10
- Education.....19
- Health .....21
- Sports.....23
- Stay Connected .....26

photo link: Milford Parks and Recreation Department



**Opposing Key Properties Request to County**



**Sussex Property Reassessment in Fall**



**New Assistant Golf Pro**



# HEADLINES



photo link: [Milford School District](#)



# LETTER SENT OPPOSING KEY PROPERTIES REQUEST TO COUNTY

BY TERRY ROGERS

For the third time since 2018, Key Properties LLC is requesting land east of Route 1 near the Bayhealth Sussex Campus to be rezoned from agricultural to commercial. In 2018, Sussex County Council overruled their own Planning and Zoning Commission to deny a request to change the zone and, in 2022, the city of Milford denied a request to change their Comprehensive Plan for the property from low-density residential to commercial. On April 24, at 3 p.m., Key Properties will again present a request to Sussex County Planning and Zoning to change the zoning to commercial.

“The subject parcel was considered for commercial land use during the initial phase of the master plan, but commercial was not ultimately recommended due to difficulty in gaining road access to the property and the proximity to low density residential land uses,” the letter read. “City Council denied Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use map for the subject parcel in 2016 and again in 2022. In both instances, the property owner

requested to change the future land use of the property from Low Density Residential to Commercial. The request was denied due to the proximity of low-density residential land uses in the area, availability of other commercial land for development within the city, and the difficulty in providing commercial road access to the site. According to PLUS comments provided by the state of Delaware in 2022, transportation access to the property would be by way of the adjacent parcel to the north owned by Mr. Wiggles, LLC and direct access to Route 1 would not be permitted.”

In 2018, East Gate Farms LLC, which owns land to the south of the parcel being reviewed this month, requested that Sussex County rezone the land to neighborhood business for an office complex. At the time, Councilman I.G. Burton stated that he was opposed to the zoning change.

“This property is a keystone in how Sussex County

see page 4

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VICINITY MAP  
SCALE 1" = 0.5 MILE

SITE DATA

A	LAND USE: COMMERCIAL / RETAIL PARCEL SIZE: 2.54 ACRES BUILDING SQUARE FOOTAGE: 5200 SQUARE FEET PARKING PROPOSED: 200 SPACES
B	LAND USE: COMMERCIAL / RETAIL PARCEL SIZE: 6.84 ACRES BUILDING SQUARE FOOTAGE: 10,000 SQUARE FEET PARKING PROPOSED: 200 SPACES
C	LAND USE: COMMERCIAL / RETAIL PARCEL SIZE: 1.84 ACRES BUILDING SQUARE FOOTAGE: 4,000 SQUARE FEET PARKING PROPOSED: 200 SPACES
D	LAND USE: COMMERCIAL / RETAIL PARCEL SIZE: 8.84 ACRES BUILDING SQUARE FOOTAGE: 10,000 SQUARE FEET PARKING PROPOSED: 200 SPACES
E	LAND USE: MEDICAL / OFFICE PARCEL SIZE: 8.84 ACRES BUILDING SQUARE FOOTAGE: 10,000 SQUARE FEET PARKING PROPOSED: 200 SPACES
F	LAND USE: MEDICAL / OFFICE PARCEL SIZE: 8.84 ACRES BUILDING SQUARE FOOTAGE: 10,000 SQUARE FEET PARKING PROPOSED: 200 SPACES
G	LAND USE: MEDICAL / OFFICE PARCEL SIZE: 8.84 ACRES BUILDING SQUARE FOOTAGE: 10,000 SQUARE FEET PARKING PROPOSED: 200 SPACES
H	LAND USE: RESORT / HOTEL PARCEL SIZE: 8.84 ACRES BUILDING SQUARE FOOTAGE: 10,000 SQUARE FEET PARKING PROPOSED: 200 SPACES
I	LAND USE: PARK / RECREATION PARCEL SIZE: 1.00 ACRES BUILDING SQUARE FOOTAGE: 0 SQUARE FEET PARKING PROPOSED: 0 SPACES



from page 3

treats future land-use applications and development east of Route 1,” Burton said. “If we approve this one, it signals that Sussex County believes that more intensive uses are appropriate in this area. I do not want to start that trend with this property.”

The letter explained that there was already ample commercial property available west of Route 1 near the new hospital. According to the city, there are approximately 325 acres of developed highway commercial district land within Milford city limits. In addition, there are approximately 375 acres of undeveloped or underutilized commercial lands in the city limits, of which 245 acres are located along the Route 1 corridor. The letter also pointed out that Bayhealth Medical Center currently owns 65 acres of vacant commercial land east of the Sussex Health Campus that could yield over 500,000 square feet of office or retail space.

When this same request came before City Council in May 2022, it was denied with a vote of 6 to 1 with Councilman Todd Culotta casting the only vote to approve the request. Senator Dave Wilson spoke in favor of the change, stating that Milford needed additional options when it came to commercial services.

“Let’s go back, let’s just take you on a little heritage tour here. Let’s go back and look at what happened in Milford and back in the 60s and 70s with clothing stores,” Wilson said at the public hearing. “Cooper-smith, Hoffman, Fisher’s JC Penney’s, Derrickson’s, Grant Store, you could go to Milford and buy a suit of clothes. You could go to Milford and do your shopping. A lady could go get an evening dress. You can’t even get

see page 5

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**April 18, 2024 10:00A to 11:00A**





from page 4

a shirt in Milford now, why do people go to Dover? Because Milford doesn't have what they need."

However, Wilson was the only person in favor of the comprehensive plan change during that meeting. Steve Griffin, who was then and still is the president of the Homeowner's Association with Knollac Acres, pointed out that when Key Properties purchased the land, it was after the Comprehensive Plan was adopted and that the owner of Key Properties, Elmer Fannin, should have done his due diligence before buying the land.

During the vote which eventually denied the request, Councilman Culotta stated that he felt this was just a change to the master plan and that Key Properties would need to go through a lot of approvals to build anything on the property.

"I do appreciate the residents not wanting this right next to them, I do appreciate that," Culotta commented in 2022. "But I was elected to represent taxpayers and voters, not 64 households that just don't want it next to them. Again, I appreciate it, I don't disagree with them, but I'm looking at the big picture here."

The letter from the city of Milford concluded with a statement that they recommended Sussex County Planning and Zoning Commission deny application CZ-2004 as it was not consistent with the city of Milford's adopted Comprehensive Plan and Southeast Master Plan, which was prepared through extensive and inclusive planning effort by the city and its residents. It also stated there is sufficient land within the city appropriately zoned to accommodate the needed and welcomed growth to serve area residents.



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# CULTURE



photo link: [Second Street Players](#)





BY TERRY ROGERS

The popular Bug and Bud Festival will return to downtown Milford on Saturday, April 27, from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. The festival this year, along with its organizer, Downtown Milford, Inc. (DMI), will have a new look.

“This year’s Bug and Bud Festival will feature the release of DMI’s new branding and logos,” Sara LeBright, executive director of DMI, said. “We are so excited for this year’s festival which is geared completely toward families and children. All bounce houses and kids’ games will be free as DMI is covering all costs for these events.”

In addition to the free Kid’s Zone, the festival will feature over 200 vendors, including crafts, food and more. There will be a petting zoo courtesy of the Milford High School FFA, readings of a children’s book that features a ladybug, a presentation by Sussex Conservation that will provide information geared toward children about the importance of bugs, plants and more to the environment.

“Colin Walls and Jim Weller will be broadcasting live from 11 until 1 from the festival,” LeBright said. “We will

## BUG AND BUD FESTIVAL RETURNS

also have ‘Dancing in the Street with Rooster.’ Brian Chase, better known as Rooster from WCHK The Chicken 101.3 will be playing music and the Walnut Street bridge will be open for dancing from noon until 4 p.m.”

The event kicks off with a Pet and People Parade from Bicentennial Park to the Library amphitheater. Paradeers are asked to meet at the gazebo in Bicentennial Park at 9:15 a.m. with the parade kicking off at 9:40. Costumes are encouraged for both people and their pets. Once the parade arrives at the amphitheater, Boy Scouts will present the flag for the Pledge of Allegiance and the playing of the National Anthem.

“We will then have Rep. Bryan Shupe read the festival proclamation and Claudia Leister of the Milford Museum will announce a brief history of how the ladybug became the state bug,” LeBright said. “We will introduce members of the second grade class that made that happen as well. After that, the festival kicks off in full swing!”

Walnut Street and Washington Streets will be closed from Northeast/Northwest Front Street to Southeast/Southwest Front Street as will Park Place and Denny’s Row from 5 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Saturday, April 27. DMI is looking for volunteers and anyone interested can contact the office at 302-839-1180 or email Promotions@downtownmilford.org.





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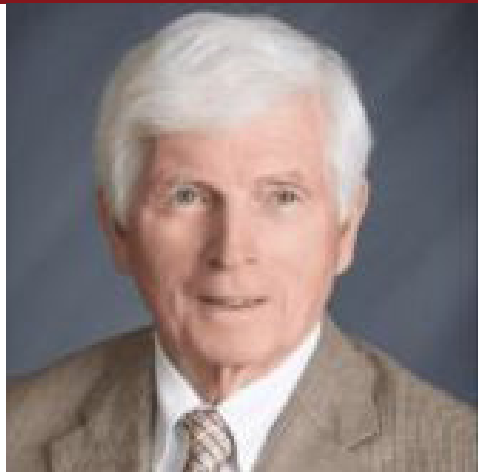


# GOVERNMENT & POLITICS



photo credit: Ben Muldrow





# MEET YOUR MILFORD WARD 1 AND 2 CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES

BY TERRY ROGERS

On April 27, registered voters in the city of Milford will go to the polls to elect the members of City Council. All four wards as well as the mayor’s seat are contested this year. A Candidate Q&A is planned for Wards 1 and 2 on Thursday, April 18, from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Milford High School auditorium and there is also a Meet and Greet planned at Westside Restaurant that evening from 5 to 8 p.m. Each candidate provided a brief bio as well as an explanation for why they chose to run for election.

## *Michael Boyle – Ward 1*

Michael Boyle has been a resident of Milford since 2006 after serving for over 28 years in the United States Army, as well as 17 years serving as a Department of Defense contractor conducting investigations and developing personnel policy. Boyle graduated from LaSalle University, the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College. He retired from the Army as a

lieutenant colonel. Boyle has been married to his wife, Gerry, for 58 years.

Before his election to City Council in 2018, Boyle served for over three years on Milford’s Planning and Zoning Commission. He also served on the Meadows at Shawnee HOA Board of Directors as well as on the Milford Middle School Lakeview Avenue Committee.

Boyle chose to run for Milford City Council initially due to his concern for the people who live and work in Milford today and in the future. He has always had an “open door” policy for his constituents and feels his background has instilled in him the temperament and understanding of what it takes to achieve results. Boyle stated that he has a “strong personal commitment to Milford,” calling it “his home.”

“I want to see Milford thrive while maintaining its small-town feel and charm, sustain a solid jobs base,

see page 12



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provide good affordable housing, continue to provide first class policing for a safe, diverse community and a good school system essential to Milford’s future.”

**Lori Connor – Ward 2**

Lori Connor was born and raised in Delaware and has resided in the city for five years. Lori and her spouse, Jacob, have three children combined. The youngest attends school in the Milford School District. In 2013, Connor graduated with a degree in legal studies and is near completion of a second degree in business administration. Her long-term educational goal is to receive a master’s degree in organizational leadership.

Connor served in the military for nearly 13 years before medically retiring. Her career within the military consisted of administrative, paralegal and CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiation, Nuclear) assignments. The positions she held within the military provided her with experience in managing high-value budgets, reviewing and revising policy and procedure, emergency response, leadership, and most importantly, the selflessness needed to serve.

Connor is employed by a local logistics brokerage company and recently accepted a transfer into an operational role. In addition to her full-time position, she has served for two consecutive years as the HOA representative in her community, Milford Ponds. Her experience as a representative introduced her to the relationship between the city and developers and the required steps to provide oversight and quality infrastructure.

“I decided to run for City Council mainly to give voters the ability to have an election and because I have

the heart to serve,” Connor said. “I would like to bring the same high-quality, result-driven leadership I have provided to my community and expand it to all residents of Ward 2. If elected, my goal is to reestablish decision-making based on constituents’ feedback and act as a voice for the community. My top priorities are to continue improving safety, sustainable growth in development, continued communication and working to find budget solutions that limit the use of raising taxes or utility costs.”

She enjoys traveling, spending time with her family, and running in local charity races in her free time. Connor has also volunteered countless hours assisting parents in advocating for their children newly diagnosed with autism.

**Diamonto “Madula” Kalesis – Ward 1**

Although her first name is actually Diamonto, everyone calls the owner of Westside Restaurant Madula. Born and raised in Greece, Kalesis moved to Milford when she was 18. She obtained her education in Greece and came to the United States unable to speak, read or write English and says that is still a learning process for her every day.

Kalesis has two children, ages 25 and 27, who grew up in Milford and still live in the city. She stated that she has been “blessed and lucky” for the past 27 years as the owner of Westside Restaurant. Being in this business has given her the opportunity to get to know the people of Milford and, over time, treat them like family or close friends. It has also taught her how to deal with adversity, communication, social issues, budgeting and leadership.

see page 13

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from page 12

Kalesis explained that, over the years, she has had the chance to help and be involved in the community either by volunteering or donating to different local charities or events. Milford has been her home for over three decades and she believes that “home is where your heart is,” stating that her heart is definitely all about Milford.

Kalesis stated that deciding to run for council was not an easy decision, but one she felt was important.

“I am not a politician; I am you, an everyday person, but I believe I can be an asset to our community,” Kalesis said. “I am invested in Milford and committed in working to help Milford grow in the best possible way while it maintains a small-town charm. Building trust and being transparent with the people is something that the town needs right now and I would like to be the people’s voice.”

**Nadia Zychal – Ward 2**

Nadia Zychal grew up in southern New Jersey in a three generation bilingual household. The first generation born in the United States to Ukranian parents who arrived here to make a new life after leaving their war-torn homeland. Her lifelong love of art led her to create a career in a challenging field and has been a small business owner for more than 30 years, providing her artistic skills that can be seen all over Milford, including Benvenuto, My Sister’s Fault, to Lulu the Ladybug which graces the Milford Museum steps.

Running this business has given Zychal the experience she needs to solve challenging problems and complete complicated tasks on time and on budget with a com-

see page 14

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from page 13

mitment to excellent results. She and her husband, Craig, moved to Milford more than 10 years ago to better care for Zychal's mother-in-law, Ruth.

The couple purchased an old home on South Walnut Street that was ideally situated near town amenities and provided the privacy and independence that made the best of the difficult situation. She soon fell in love with the charming town and decided to become involved in service and volunteer work. Zychal has served on the Milford Museum board, DMI Design Committee and donated her artwork to decorate the Santa House and an electrical box downtown.


Zychal currently serves as co-chair of the Milford Zoning Board of Adjustments where she has a record of balancing the needs of the community while respecting individual property rights.

"Growing up and being a homeowner in southern New Jersey has given me a firsthand perspective in how not to govern," Zychal said. "It was an expensive experience in taxation without real representation that I will fight to prevent from happening here. If elected, controlling and managing growth and maintaining good communication with the community is how I will represent Ward 2 on Milford's City Council."

Voting will take place at the Public Works Office located in 180 Vickers Drive in Milford from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. Only candidates who are registered to vote who live in Wards 1 and 2 may vote for Boyle, Connor, Kalesis or Zychal. To learn what ward a voter lives in, contact the city of Milford at 302-422-6616, ext. 6, or visit the city's Ward [map page](#) and enter an address.



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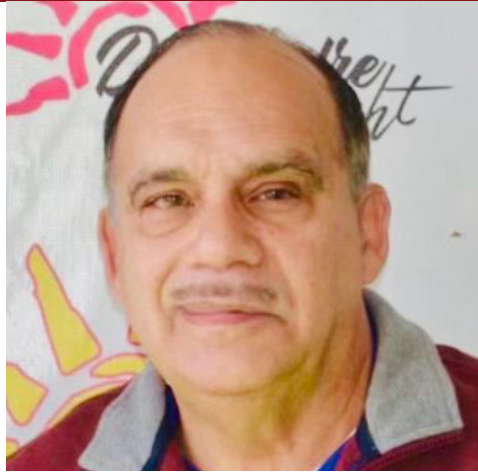
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# MEET YOUR MILFORD WARD 3 AND 4 CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES

BY TERRY ROGERS

On April 27, registered voters in the city of Milford will go to the polls to elect the members of City Council. All four wards as well as the mayor's seat are contested this year. A Candidate Q&A is planned for Wards 3 and 4 on Tuesday, April 23, from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Milford High School auditorium. Each candidate provided a brief bio as well as an explanation for why they chose to run for election.

### *Danny Perez – Ward 3*

Danny Perez, born 1950 in Arecibo, Puerto Rico, was raised in New York City when his parents emigrated to the Big Apple with their 7-month-old infant child. Perez attended and graduated from both a private elementary and high school in New York City. Perez, who served in the United States Army during the Vietnam conflict from 1969 through 1976 as a radio communication analyst, was honorably discharged and resided in Northern Virginia for the next 23 years.

While in Virginia, he raised a family, earned a Master of Science in Taxation from Southeastern University in Washington, DC, and opened his own tax practice in 1986 as a licensed IRS Enrolled Agent in Arlington, VA. During the years of 1994 through 1999, he hosted a live weekly radio talk show which was listened to by the Hispanic Community throughout Washington, DC, Metropolitan Area in addressing business and individual tax issues. The listening audience was invited to participate in a Q&A format and other current topics relating to the community were also discussed.

In 1999, Perez and his family relocated to the city of Milford and opened his tax practice in the Milford Shopping Center. Also, Perez with his wife, operated a Spanish-speaking radio station under the call sign WJWL-900AM in Georgetown from March 2003 through July 2010. The Hispanic communities in the

see page 16



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Perez continues to be a member of various professional organizations in the tax and accounting practice field and has served as a board member of numerous community non-profits for the past 30 years. He is currently serving as a board member of Greater Milford Chamber of Commerce.

Perez is a proud father and grandfather to four grandchildren ages 14 to 31.

“I believe in cultivating strategic partnerships which enhances the entrepreneurial spirit of our business community and our government leaders to create a thriving community,” Perez said. “I am an advocate for affordable housing, educational opportunities and a safe place to live, work and play.”

#### **Phillip Henry Ruiz – Ward 4**

For over two decades, Phillip Henry Ruiz and his family have called Milford home and consider it a place where community and camaraderie flourish. As the proud owner of the Delaware Barber Studio, LLC, Ruiz has had the honor of not just styling and cutting hair, but also shaping lives and making lifelong friends, one conversation at a time.

His commitment to service extends beyond the barber chair. With a heart for ministry, Ruiz founded and pas-

tered Hope Community Bible Fellowship Church, serving as a beacon of home and help. The church is located next to Westside Restaurant and, for over 20 years, Ruiz has dedicated himself to uplifting those in need, guided by faith and fellowship.

Life’s simple pleasures keep Ruiz grounded, whether it is the thrill of the open road on his Harley Davidson, the tranquility of the beach or reading and researching history, these hobbies reflect the joys in his life.


“As a candidate for Milford City Council, my vision is clear; to give back to the community that has given my family so much,” Ruiz said. “Raising my children here, watching them thrive in activities from Pop Warner, high school football, wrestling to Milford Cheer, has only deepened my appreciation for our shared bonds. I stand ready to serve, to contribute and to ensure that Milford remains a place where families can flourish for generations to come.”

#### **Michael Stewart – Ward 3**

Born in Milford Memorial Hospital, Michael Stewart’s great grandparents took guardianship of him even though they were in their late 60s at the time. Stewart attended Christian Tabernacle Academy from kindergarten through graduation. After high school, he attended the University of Delaware through the parallel program at Delaware Technical and Community College.

Becoming a husband and father of twin sons before he was 20, college had to stop while he worked full-time to support his family. Today, he has remarried and has four children and five grandchildren between he and

see page 17



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his wife. Stewart attends Calvary Wesleyan Church in Harrington where he can be found on Sundays in the parking lot greeting everyone as they make their way into the church. He has been employed at Miller Metal Fabrication for almost 11 years.

Stewart explained that he decided to run for City Council for a very simple reason and that is to make the people in his ward see that their opinion is how a councilperson should vote.

“I’ve never had my councilperson ask my opinion on anything, ever,” Stewart said. “Most of the people I’ve talked to have never had that either. I just want the people to have that. Of course, there are other reasons, things I don’t agree with. Michael Stewart is just one vote of around 1,300 people in my ward. It’s not me voting on my opinion but voting on what the majority believes.”

#### ***Katrina Wilson – Ward 4***

Katrina Wilson has served as a City Councilperson since 1996, making history in Milford when she was elected the first black female vice-mayor in 2006. A native Milfordian, Wilson graduated from Milford High School and attended the University of Delaware as well as Wesley College. Her Milford roots run deep, especially on the Brady side of her family, giving her a unique perspective into Ward 4.

Recently retired, Wilson worked at the Milford office of Nemours Health and Prevention Services. A mother and grandmother, Wilson is married to Darrell Wilson. Becoming a public servant was not something Wilson aspired to when she was young, but something she de-

cidated to do after being asked repeatedly by the late Sidney Coverdale. She faced a difficult election the first time, running against Doug Gibson who was the incumbent at the time. When she won, Wilson stated that Gibson, who she has known her entire life, gave her his blessing.

“I feel the need to continue to keep the community together, so we all feel as one. It’s a big challenge. I have supported growth, but feel I have done so in a measured, responsible way,” Wilson said. “While I am elected by the citizens of the Fourth Ward, my responsibility is to the entire city. I try to keep the doors of communication open. I am a hands-on person and I enjoy working on the issues. I respect city employees and those who are managing the city. I want to continue the work we have started to create the best Milford we can possibly create.”

Voting will take place at the Public Works Office located in 180 Vickers Drive in Milford from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. Only candidates who are registered to vote and live in Wards 1 and 2 may vote for Perez, Ruiz, Stewart or Wilson. To learn what ward a voter lives in, contact the city of Milford at 302-422-6616, ext. 6, or visit the city’s Ward [map page](#) and enter an address.



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## SUSSEX RESIDENTS TO GET PROPERTY REASSESSMENT VALUES IN FALL

BY JAREK RUTZ

The homeowners of Sussex County can expect to receive the long-awaited letters of property reassessment this fall.

“Kent County is actually a year ahead of us, so ours is not going to be complete until this time next year,” said Chris Keeler, director of assessment for Sussex County, “So it’ll be spring of 2025 before the project is completed and we won’t have any preliminary values until the fall of 2024.”

**Tyler Technologies**, the software company hired by the state to conduct the reassessments, is still in the data

collection phase. “They’re working in the Rehoboth, Lewes, Milford areas right now,” Keeler said, “so they’re finishing up collecting data and then are going to start their valuation phase next.”

Property reassessments have not been done in New Castle County since 1983, in Kent County since 1987, and in Sussex County since 1974.

The statewide reassessments stem from a 2020 [lawsuit](#) in which a Chancery Court judge ruled that the state’s property tax system is unconstitutional as part of an education funding lawsuit. Among other requirements



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like millions of dollars into opportunity funding—which provides weighted funding and support for low-income students and English learners in public schools—the lawsuit tasked the three counties to conduct their first property reassessments in decades.

Kent County residents started receiving their letters of new reassessment around the New Year. In Kent, the average property value before the reassessments was \$62,000 and after reassessment, it is about 600% or \$420,000 higher.

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# EDUCATION



photo link: [Milford School District](#)





# MSD ANNOUNCES CHANGES TO MHS BUS PROCEDURES

BY TERRY ROGERS

Recently, Milford School District announced changes to their bus procedures for 11th and 12th graders at Milford High School. This change will take place for the 2024-25 school year.

“Effective August 2024, all 11th and 12th grade students requiring bus transportation must opt-in,” Trish Gerken, public information officer, said. “There is a form that must be completed for students to opt-in for busing and it can be submitted at any time during the year should circumstances change.”

The form to opt-in can be found [online](#) or it can be picked up at the Milford High School office and filled out by hand.

In addition to the change in bus policy, Milford High School Principal Seth Buford reminded parents that

there have been changes to drop-off procedures at the school as well.

“All students who drive, walk or are dropped off will find the arrival entrance moved from the circle or main office entrance to the cafeteria lobby entrance,” Buford said. “Students will still be dismissed through the main office entrance. Students who arrive later than 7:35 a.m. will enter through the main office entrance. The new entrance procedure will be in effect for morning arrival only.

Anyone with questions can contact the Milford High School office at 302-422-1610.



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






# HEALTH



photo link: Bayhealth





## KEEP KIDS THRIVING THROUGH ALLERGY SEASON

### STAFF REPORT

It's springtime—the flowers begin to open, beams of sunshine warm our skin and the pleasant breeze seems to breathe life back into nature. Children are eager to play outside after the long, bitter winter. But this season comes with a catch—it can cause congestion, itchy eyes, and lots of sneezing.

Bayhealth Otolaryngologist (ENT) Catherine Wright, MD, knows navigating pesky seasonal allergies can be a challenge for parents and kids alike. Children as young as three years old can have seasonal allergies. “It can be alarming to see your child suddenly dealing with allergy symptoms before they're able to tell you what they're experiencing,” said Dr. Wright. “Being prepared with preventive measures will help you get ahead of the allergy symptoms for future exposure.

Here's Dr. Wright's tips for helping you and your little one through the season.

- Find which allergens bother your child. Knowing what triggers allergies is important. Does your child have a flair up of symptoms after being outdoors? What time of day are the symptoms at their worst? Allergens are heavy in the transitional seasons—spring and fall—and they include mold, grass, and tree and weed pollen. Avoid things that will cause your child's symptoms to worsen.

- Plan your play time accordingly. Keep your child indoors during peak pollen counts. Check the local weather report to find the day's pollen count. The pollen count tells you how much pollen is in the air and which plants are producing it. Keep in mind that pollen counts are higher on warm, dry and windy days.

- Wash up. When your child comes in from playing outside, wash their face and change their clothes to reduce continued exposure. Changing pillowcases frequently is another plus.

- Clean nasal passages. Saline nasal spray ‘washes’ the nose of the allergens. It's just as important as washing hands, so be sure to have your child cleanse their nasal passages often. Steroid nasal sprays are shown to be even more effective. These can be used before the start of symptoms.

- Give antihistamines. Oral antihistamines like children's Zyrtec and Claritin are best used when symptoms are already present. Antihistamine eye drops can also be prescribed if necessary. If you're concerned about side effects or finding out which is the best option for your child, it's best to consult your doctor. Allergy shots and immunotherapy are available for more severe cases. These methods can provide relief if the other over-the-counter options aren't making a difference for your child.

Early treatment when it comes to allergies in children can make all the difference. Dr. Wright said, “a proactive approach is much better than a reactive approach,” and that being tested for allergies is more effective at pinpointing exactly which ones are causing symptoms. Children can be safely tested at any age. Seasonal allergies don't have to ruin all the fun.

Visit [Bayhealth.org/Find-A-Doc](https://www.bayhealth.org/Find-A-Doc) to find a Bayhealth ENT and other clinicians to fit your family's needs.





# SPORTS



photo credit: David McCallum





# MEET THE NEW ASSISTANT GOLF PRO AT SDGC

BY DAVID MCCALLUM

Caden Stanley's journey to being the new assistant golf professional at Southern Delaware Golf Club has been a circuitous one—much like a baseball player rounding the bases before sliding back into home safely.

Fortunately, it's a journey Stanley likely navigated numerous times as a second baseman and four-year letterman at Milford High School, where in his senior season in 2019 culminated with the Buccaneers posting a 16-2 regular season record before falling to Cape Henlopen 3-2 in the DIAA tournament.

After graduating from Milford, Stanley's next stop was Delaware Tech Community College where his golf journey really began to take shape. Following three months of playing baseball, he decided to throw his lot in with golf.

“That's when I fell in love with golf and I said, ‘I think I've had my time with baseball and I'm going to switch over to golf now. I'm the type of person who likes competition. It's always been a thing with me. This is going to sound kind of selfish, but I kind of wanted something that every success was on me, every failure was on me, and I think golf has a better way of testing you all around. And when it's on you, you can play for yourself. When you do something good, it's all on you; but, when you do something bad, it's all on you, too. I just like that challenge more than a team sport [offers you].”

Although he's not playing baseball anymore, Stanley says playing his childhood sport has helped him with the game that he now loves.

“Yes, just having a natural development of a swing, the torque in the body that it takes, there's a lot of changes that come with that (with a golf swing) you have to adjust to,” he said. “You know over time, I have adjusted,” he said with a smile, “I bet if I went out and tried to hit a baseball, I wouldn't be anywhere near able to do it the way I used to do it.

“Also, one thing I've also done with any sport I've played is honestly overanalyze everything about it. I think over the years of playing baseball, I didn't master it obviously, but I felt like the knowledge aspect of the game that I had gotten pretty much everything in my brain, and I wanted to start fresh with something new.”

Stanley says the fact he didn't know too much about golf at the time helped him in that he was able to teach himself the ways around the game.

He says there have also been a lot of people around the golf industry that have helped him grow his game. Stanley counts his dad, Jon, who played golf at Seaford High School and Milford High friends Kyle and Josh Strassle, members of the MHS golf team at the time among those.

“Those two [the Strassles] were the first real golfers that I played with,” Caden said. “They've definitely given me some tips that I hadn't considered that have helped me improve my game.”

At the time Stanley was falling for golf, SDGC's previous incarnation—Rookery North—was still open, but

see page 25



when it closed in 2020, he had to go in search of a new golf home and he found it at Mulligan's Pointe in Georgetown where he became a member and it was there he "pretty much played every day," he said.

One day, the pro there (Mulligan's) approached Stanley and asked him if he wanted a job and he accepted.

"I started working as a cart boy and gradually worked my way up the ladder until I was working in the pro shop. And then approximately 1-1/2 years ago, I was offered the assistant pro job."

How he landed back in his hometown at the newly named SDGC was something Stanley called a 'thing of luck' because he caught it at the right time. "I have a couple of buddies that work out here and they kept telling me to come over and see if I could get a job here, and I did and now I'm here."

As for Southern Delaware's Director of Golf and head pro Stewart Fisher, he is excited to have Stanley onboard.

"The main thing that I see is that he loves the game, and he cares about golf. He cares about this area, he grew up in Milford," Fisher said. "He's happy to see this course restored to its former glory if you will. He cares about this property, this town. He reminds me a lot of myself. I didn't start golfing until college like Caden and I fell in love with the game and just wanted to be around it and he wants to learn, so that's what I'm excited about Caden is his love for the game and his desire to learn more and better himself as a golf professional."

The fact that Stanley is from Milford and played the old Rookery North course is a golf gold mine of infor-

mation for Fisher who never had the opportunity to play the course in its previous incarnation.

"It's tremendous that Caden has the local knowledge," Fisher said. "He knows a lot of people in the area, folks that were members here when it was Shawnee or even when it was Rookery North, so he's going to be able to relate with them. And as far as the course, it is going to help with how it looked like then and how it is going to look like in the future and filling me in with the benefits of knowing those things is big."

As far as Stanley's role as the assistant pro, Fisher sees him as just another version of himself.

"He's going to have the ability to teach, to help organize and execute tournaments. He's helping already with the membership, the inventory, the merchandising side of things," Fisher said. "He's young, eager to learn, is kind of helping me be a better pro, but I can help him be a better pro just by teaching him how the ins and outs of the golf operation runs."

In golf course news, memberships for both individuals and families are sold out with a total of 226. There is a waiting list for single or family memberships, and interested people can call the pro shop at 302-491-7933 or send an email to [stewart@southerndelawaregolfclub.com](mailto:stewart@southerndelawaregolfclub.com) to get on the wait list. The course opens to members and the general public on May 1.

Members will be able to book tee times 30 days in advance, while the general public can do so 28 days in advance by calling the pro shop at 302-491-7933 now or using the course's website, [www.southerndelawarego-](http://www.southerndelawarego-)

[lf.com](http://lf.com), once it goes live which is tentatively set for Tuesday (April 16). Golfers will also soon be able to book times on the course's app, which can be found in their favorite app stores by looking for Southern Delaware GC. Fisher noted golfers will not be able to book tee times on the popular Golf Now app.

In addition, netting for the driving range continues to be installed. Inside the pro shop, merchandise which includes clubs, golf gloves, hats and apparel continues to arrive daily, he said.



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

