Solar Field On Schedule To Energize Milford

By Terry Rogers

At the Milford City Council meeting on Monday, December 10, 2012, City Manager Richard Carmean said that the new solar field appeared to be on schedule for energizing in January 2013. The solar field, owned by PSEG Solar Source, is a 15 MW DC solar project, is the largest in the state and one of the largest on the East Coast.

“The solar field is a great thing for the city,” said Councilman Skip Pikus. “During peak electric use, the City can purchase power from the plant, reducing our electric load. In addition, the town can take advantage of an excellent green energy source.”

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Busy Year Ahead For School Board

By Bryan Shupe

Over the past several years students, parents, teachers and administrators of the Milford School District have seen many changes including the requiring of student uniforms, altering school start times and the revising of the districtwide attendance policy. With the second semester of the 2012-2013 school year just beginning, more debate on issues such as a proposal to close Milford Middle School, the creation of a new college enrollment program, strengthening heightened security measures and
stabilizing financial solvency for the district will be on the agenda for the 2013 Milford School District Board of Education.

School Board President Patrick Emory is looking forward to the 2013 school year and is optimistic about the potential for growth in the Milford School District. Patrick Emory was reelected to the Milford School Board in 2011 and was appointed President of the Board on July 11 of that year by the members of the School Board. The Milford School Board is comprised of eight members elected through a District wide vote of the people. Board Members serve five-year terms on a staggered basis and reside in the district. Members annually elect their President and Vice President.

The first major debate in 2013 for the School Board will come this month as members of the Board discuss a proposal to close the Milford Middle School. The proposal, which was drafted by Superintendent Phyllis Kohel and a committee selected from community members, will be to close the Milford Middle School at the end of the 2012-2013 school year and redistribute students to existing school in the district, with grades 1 through 5 attending all three Elementary Schools, grades 6 through 8 attending the Milford Academy and grades 9 through 12 attending the Milford High School.

“The fact is, if this building is closed it will save the District a half million dollars per year,” commented School Board President Pat Emory. “There will have to be some debate regarding exactly which schools students will attend once the school is closed. We will also be looking at uses for the gym and school itself in partnership with the City of Milford and Milford Parks and Recreation.”

In an effort to help eleven and twelfth graders better prepare for college, the Milford School District will also be looking at a new College Enrollment Program where students will be able to take college courses for college credits at the Milford High School. These classes, which will be offered to a larger portion of the student population than just students enrolled in Advanced Placement courses, will be taught by Milford High School teachers and be tuition free.

“I think this will be a very positive program,” commented Mr. Emory. “It will give many kids access to begin their college career free of charge on the Milford High School campus.”

In the light of the recent tragedy that befell Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown, Connecticut, the Milford Board of Education will also be discussing the need for heightened security at each of the six schools located in the district. Some of the options that will be up for debate include placing police officers at each school and hiring a private security firm to place guards at school entrances.

“I would like to see some form of security in all

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of the schools in the district,” commented Emory. “I would feel better to have a trained officer at the schools, there could be a chance to create a partnership with the Milford Police Department to answer our security needs.”

A top priority for the Milford School Board this year will once again be stabilizing financial solvency. Operating in an economic recession, the Board will also soon be faced with a shortfall of school funding expected by 2014, when federal funds from the Race to the Top program will end. Delaware was the first of two states to receive federal funding through the Race to the Top program to temporarily fund support programs through 2014. Those funds have been used in the Milford School District to support programs such as the Lead Academy, Accelerated Summer Program, Mapping of the Curriculum, After School Tutoring and a district-wide mentoring program. Milford School District will need to find a way to sustain the current programs and services that are offered to students and the community by using local money.

“We are in pretty good situation to handle this but there will be some tough decisions when those programs have to be funded,” commented Emory.

As with each year, 2013 will present unique challenged for students, parents, teachers and administrators in the Milford School District. Individuals looking for more information on the Milford School District, the Board of Education and the upcoming year are encouraged to visit http://www.milfordschooldistrict.org.
The 80-acres of land originally designated for a new substation for the City was sold to Juwi Solar, Inc. The City placed the proceeds of the sale into the electric reserves, providing additional financial benefit to the electric department. PSEG Solar Source acquired the project from Juwi Solar in September 2012.

The City and PSEG hope to begin supplying power to two City transformers installed for that purpose as early as January 2013. The City is currently completing a substation behind Haven Lake Animal Hospital as well. The project needs to be completed by December 31 so that PSEG can take advantage of federal and state tax credits that will expire in January 2013.

“It has been a challenge to our electric crews to build a temporary connection into our system,” Cit Manager Richard Carmean said. “They will be ready to accept the load at the planned date, though.” The City is still negotiating easements and right-of-ways for permanent connections.

The project has agreements for power purchase and solar renewable energy credits with Delaware Municipal Electric Corporation. DNREC Secretary Collin O’Mara says that Delaware is emerging as a leader in clean energy systems.

In addition to providing clean energy to the city, the solar farm created more than 100 jobs during construction, but after completion will be staffed by only a few security personnel and local grounds crews to maintain the property.

PSEG Solar Source is a publicly traded energy company that develops, constructs, owns and operates large-scale solar facilities outside of PSE&G’s service area. The company focuses on large-scale solar gardens and farms. More information on the project will be released once the system is completely energized and operational City officials stated.
Infrastructure problems were the biggest issues facing Richard Carmean when he returned to the City Manager’s position just over a year ago. After a brief retirement, Carmean returned to a position he had held for 11 years. At the time he took the job, he knew that infrastructure problems would be his focus.

“Most of the time, my focus was on the infrastructure of the town, but the day-to-day operations of the town and the time it took out of my day actually surprised me,” Carmean said.

The biggest issue facing the town was the quality and quantity of water, requiring the town to drill test wells in various locations. The first test well drilled came in dry, while a second hit contamination, causing setbacks to increasing the town’s water supply.

“These were setbacks, but we are now moving forward,” Carmean explained. “We have drilled a successful well in Southeast Milford that will enable us to build a new water tower.”

In addition to the new tower, a $4 million project to build a new water plant, reservoir and billing office downtown is underway. Moving the billing office to a downtown location rather than at the Public Works building where it is today offers more convenience to citizens and because the land used is land

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the city already owns, there is a cost savings as well. The new water plant, reservoir and billing office will be built on South Washington Street. Previously, the building housed the City of Milford Police Department and, more recently, the Chamber of Commerce for Greater Milford and the Downtown Milford organization. That building will be demolished. However, even that project has had minor setbacks as initial borings found evidence of debris that must be removed in order to build the foundation for the new building.

In addition to the water needs of the town, work on local roads is another infrastructure project Carmean is focusing on.

“Southeast Front Street is due for an overlay, and we had hoped to complete that last summer,” Carmean said. “But when we started evaluating the project, we found that we needed to do some major sewer and water maintenance under the road, and we knew if we didn’t repair that first, it would lead to problems down the road.”

Major work is needed on Airport Road as well, Carmean explained, with the commercial growth in that area. However, funding is a problem, and it may take some “band-aids” to correct problems in that area for the time being.

Carmean is pleased with the activity and growth he sees, both residentially and commercially. He pointed out that many of the businesses in Milford are growing, with companies like Sea Watch adding 100 or more employees over the past year and other companies discussing expansion. He stated that the town is working with Baltimore Air Coil, located just at the edge of the city limits, to help them with water issues. The city is trying to do whatever they can to keep the company based in Milford as it provides jobs for over 400 people.

In addition to infrastructure problems, Carmean also focuses on assisting Steve Masten, the Director of Economic Development, a position Carmean also held when he first returned to Milford government.

“Economic development is more

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than just bringing jobs to the area, although that is a big part of it,” Carmean explained. “It is about education, utilities, and many other things necessary to entice businesses into the area.” Carmean pointed out that a few years ago contractors were building 300 or more homes per year in the area and that that number has dropped significantly. He also indicated that there were many layoffs by businesses in the area during the recent economic crisis, and although the job market is improving people are still struggling.

“One great thing to happen was that First State Manufacturing moved into a beautiful building that could easily have remained an old, deserted warehouse,” Carmean said. He felt that this is another indication that aesthetics play a large part in bringing businesses into Milford. Carmean feels that what we look like is almost as important as what we offer when it comes to bringing new businesses in. He feels it may take more enforcement of existing ordinances regarding trash, lawn maintenance and building codes to keep Milford looking attractive.

Another area of focus for Carmean in the upcoming year is the needs of the police department. Carmean, who spent 25 years as the Chief of Police, and whose name is on the current police station, says that the force has definitely outgrown the facilities.

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“Sardines come to mind when I think of those men and women,” Carmean joked. “Seriously, the station is too small and that needs to be addressed. We have taken steps to purchase property for a new station, but again, funding is an issue. We may need to look at some creative funding and we will need a lot of community support.”

One project that came to fruition in 2012 is the solar field, located across from U.S. Cold Storage on Route 14. Carmean praised the city’s electric department with making that project a success.

“By making the connections necessary, the electric department helped get that project completed and without them the project could have been in huge trouble,” Carmean stated. A new electric substation is planned near the solar field and although the City does not see a huge savings now from the project, Carmean feels that Milford should be proud of the fact that such a large, green energy project located here.

“We take pride on the success of others,” Carmean said. The city will eventually see some savings as the solar field grows.

Carmean says that he is always working to keep costs down as much as possible as he knows that the economy is still tough for many people. The town recently underwent a 10-year tax reassessment, and many residents saw taxes rise between 20 and 30 percent. The upcoming year promises to be a busy one for the City as infrastructure corrections continue and city government works towards economic development to bring jobs to the area.
Sale runs 1/1/13 through 1/31/13. See store for details.
On December 18, 2012, at the regular meeting of the City of Milford Planning Commission, a new 12,000 square foot building was approved by unanimous vote for Halpern Eye Associates. The new building is planned at the rear entrance to Walmart on Airport Road, next to Mosquito Control.

Ken Christenbury of Axiom Engineering presented the plans for the project, and explained that the site was originally approved for The First National Bank of Wyoming in 2007. The design for the Halpern Eye Associates building includes many of the same features that were included in the bank design, with only a few minor changes to parking spaces. Based on information provided by the Commission during the bank planning, there will be no entrance to the complex from Airport Road and the only entrance to the new complex will be from the Walmart entrance. Additional landscaping was also added on the frontage side and sidewalks will be installed along Airport Road and the Walmart entrance, and fencing installed adjacent to the property where Mosquito Control exists.

The ground floor of the building will house Halpern Eye Associates, and, similar to other buildings throughout the state owned by Halpern, the second floor will be leased to tenants. Commissioner Jason James asked if they had any tenants for the building yet.

“We do not have any at this time, but we expect it to be a mixed-use development with retail, medical and legal offices,” Ryan Halpern explained. The Nanticoke office for Halpern Eye Associates leases space to Peninsula General, while the Dover office contains medical offices, while the Milford location shares space with law offices.

When asked what will happen to the building where Halpern currently conducts business, Ryan Halpern explained that his father was a co-owner of that complex, and at the present time, Halpern Eye Associates were the only tenants in the building, which is off the beaten path and dated.

Dr. Harold Halpern opened Halpern Eye Associates in 1946, with locations in Milford and Smyrna. The office was originally located on Northeast Front Street, and in 1988, the company expanded the Milford location, moving to Masten Circle where it currently operates.

“We are expanding services and adding more technology for our patients,” said Sharon Fields, Vice-President of Marketing and Advertising for Halpern Eye Associates. “In addition, the new location will be more accessible for patients.” Halpern Eye Associates is still a family run business, operated by Dr. Harold Halpern’s son, Joel and his grandson, Ryan.
The LadyBug Shop in downtown Milford is welcoming in the new year with new owners. Milford residents Christopher Clawson and David Rule purchased the business from Dan and Rhonda Bond on January 1, 2013 after they worked under the family for six months. Clawson, an author of two fiction novels, and Rule, an acrylic and watercolor artist, are excited to experience their first entrepreneurial venture together.

The LadyBug Shop, located on NW Front Street, was conceived in 2003 as a “click and mortar” business; bringing together online shopping and in store purchasing. The shop is a general gift shop with a natural, whimsical theme that revolves around lady bugs and turtles. The history behind the ladybug becoming the state bug of Delaware is tied to Milford when a second grade class petitioned the Delaware State Legislature in 1973. This history, coupled with folklore surrounding the ladybug as a bearer of good luck, created the allure for Milfordians. The shop focuses on kid’s items but also include home, kitchen and clothing merchandise that reflects their theme. They carry over 500 unique ladybug gifts.

Christopher and David came to the Milford area from New York City looking for the opportunity to create their own Bed and Breakfast business together. After searching the East Coast for suitable locations, the couple decided that an apprenticeship approach to their business venture would best fit their needs. After having an interview from the owners of The Towers Bed and Breakfast in Milford, Dan and Rhonda Bond, Christopher and David were hired on the spot. Working together on a daily basis at The Towers, the four had conversations about looking for an individual to take over the LadyBug Shop. As they had with the Bed and Breakfast, Christopher and David decided to learn the daily operations of the LadyBug Shop through experience under the guidance of the Bonds.

“It was such a unique store and it is located right next to The Towers so it was an easy decision,” commented David. “It was something that we both could work towards and build together.”

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As new owners of the LadyBug Shop the couple is looking to increase their visibility and involvement with the downtown Milford community. In addition to reorganizing the shop on NW Front Street, the building will also host David’s new art gallery by the beginning of February.

“We are working very hard to increase the foot traffic in downtown Milford and into the shop,” commented Christopher. “We have plans to remodel the inside of the store and offer some additional items that our customers will enjoy.”

To celebrate their recent success, Christopher and David will be hosting a Grand Opening for the LadyBug Shop and David’s new gallery during the 10th annual Bug and Bud Festival on Saturday, April 27. Rhonda and Dan Bond are excited to see their successors prosper in the new year and wish Christopher and David the best of luck in the venture that the Bond family began.

“My advice to them is to continue doing what they have been doing, engaging in the community and forming partnerships so that others can see their work,” commented Rhonda Bond. “Continuing to work as a team with other merchants to revitalize downtown Milford will be the key to their success.”
DMI Plans Accelerator, Public Art Project

By Lee Nelson, DMI Executive Director

Downtown is the heart of Milford. DMI’s mission is to promote, support and encourage local businesses, quality of place and vibrancy in the 30 block downtown area within the context of historic preservation. DMI’s goal is to maintain and enhance a healthy downtown to benefit the whole town.

Cooperation is key: the DMI, its volunteers, the city, local businesses and groups partnering to help Milford grow brings us together. We hope to build an even larger volunteer base to avoid burn-out. Volunteers are the most valuable resource we have – their dedication, hard work and support are essential to our dreams becoming reality. Volunteers help us build partnerships with other organizations in town and together we will all thrive.

The two most important goals for the year are interlinked. The USDA grant to bring specialized consulting to Milford and the Delaware Division of the Arts and Lions Club grants to enable us to continue the beautification of downtown with a public art project. Helping and promoting local businesses brings more visitors downtown. Once downtown, the public art project makes downtown more attractive and interesting.

Rural Business Accelerator (RBA) Program: Utilizing a USDA grant, the Delaware Economic Development Office (DEDO) and business coach and consultant, John Childress, will train a few selected downtown Milford businesses (“training the trainer”) in how to provide free and ongoing business consultancy to other downtown businesses. This will grow into a local business consulting program which in turn will help downtown grow and encourage new businesses to open. For complete program information visit our website: downtownmilford.org – Tab “RBA”

“Art on the Riverwalk Tour” (ART) Project: A public art project DMI is partnering with the Mispillion Art League, Milford Parks & Recreation Dept and Milford High School on an exciting 3-year project partially funded by the Delaware Division of the Arts and the Milford Lions Club. About ART: 4-foot “sculptures” of the classic motor yacht Augusta built by Vineyard Boat Yard in 1927 will be displayed permanently along the Mispillion Riverwalk and throughout downtown over the next 3 years, 18 in all with 6 per year being the goal. In 2009, the derelict “Augusta” was purchased by present owners of the yard, Sudler and Joan Lofland and restored to its former glory. All artists living/working in Kent and Sussex Counties are invited to apply following the guidelines and timetable. Each paid artist awarded a sculpture to decorate/paint will work with High School students as a mentor throughout the process.

Our goals for 2013 include helping existing businesses thrive with cooperative advertising, specialized consulting and events focused on bringing residents and visitors downtown. We also want to actively partner with local businesses, organizations and the city to ensure local commitment and shared achievement in making Milford a great place to live, work, play and shop. We plan to achieve all these goals in a cost effective way by relying on volunteers and sponsors. For more information visit downtownmilford.org.
Over the past weekend, signs located at several Milford School District playgrounds, including Mispillion Elementary and Lulu Ross Elementary Schools, have been the focus of public controversy, particularly across local social media. The signs in question were first reported by local radio talk show host Dan Gaffney of Milford on Saturday, January 5, when he posted an image of the sign on his Facebook page.

The sign located next to the schools’ playground equipment states in English that “parental or guardian supervision is required for the use of this playground equipment. Play at your own risk.” Below that statement is another statement in Spanish stating “ustedes debe tener un permiso para jugar en este campo. Violadores seran susceptibles a accion policial.” The English interpretation reads “you must have a permit to play in this field. Violators will be subject to police action.”

Mr. Gaffney stated that he thought it odd and wrong about the different messages portrayed on the signs and commented that he often post curiosities and potential radio topics on Facebook before air time. Mr. Gaffney stated on his Facebook post about the sign that “Only in Spanish does it say you must have a permit to play or be subject to police action. I think Milford Schools are trying to keep “certain ethnic” people away. Shame.”

After hearing about the signs Margaret Reyes made a point to visit all the playgrounds in the Milford School District and take a photo of each to be compared with each other. As a former member of the Delaware Governor’s Advisory Council on Hispanic Affairs, Ms. Reyes has had experience dealing with language access and civil rights for Hispanics in the state of Delaware.

“I wanted to confirm their existence. I wanted to see where exactly they were placed, in what areas exactly, as this might explain why they were posted at all, there are many questions unanswered as of yet,” commented Ms. Reyes. “I don’t like jumping to conclusions, I won’t cast aspersions as to motive, however that said, there is no excuse for the translation, it is not mistranslation at all.”

Superintendent Phyllis Kohel of the Milford School District explains that the controversy regarding the sign was brought to her attention yesterday and since then she has requested that the signs be taken down until they are interpreted and reviewed.

“Not knowing exactly what the sign says and how it is interpreted, I have contacted our maintenance department at the Milford School District and asked them to take it down,” stated Superintendent Kohel. “I do not believe that there was any intent to discriminate against any one group of people and I am absolutely sure that there is no intention to have one set of rules for one group and another set of rules for another. If the sign is leaning towards expressing any discrimination towards any group of people it will be taken down.”

Update: As of Monday, January 7, the signs at each playground have been taken down by the Milford School District. According to Superintendent Phyllis Kohel, a decision on whether to replace the signs will be made.
Although many know that local VFW posts serve the men and women that have served the United States in foreign combat, few know what goes on behind closed doors. An organization that provides resources, assistance and support for veterans, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Blue Hen Post 6483 in Milford, Delaware provides for the Greater Milford community as a whole.

Post Commander Gerald Thompson finds great solace and purpose being a member of the VFW Post in Milford since 2003. Commander Thompson served in the United States Army during Vietnam and assumed the rank of a E5-Sergeant. Through his own experiences he knows the pressures and difficulties that foreign war veterans face when they return to civilian life.

“The VFW is a place where a veteran can feel like he is home again, their is a camaraderie between veterans of foreign wars that is impossible to find anywhere else,” commented Dr. Thompson. “When you come here there is a feeling of comfort that everyone around you has had a similar experience.”

The men and women of the VFW Blue Hen Post 6483 benefit local veterans by providing information and access to government and community resources. Working with state agencies, schools, non-profits and community and faith-based organizations, the VFW post guides veterans to information including employment opportunities, help with utilities and food assistance.

“These girls and guys come back from combat with many difficulties including Posttraumatic Stress Disorder and we make referrals for them to receive health and disability benefits through Veterans Affairs,” commented Post Chaplin Edward Mocevlski. “We are here to inform them about what resources are available for them.”

In addition to serving veterans, the VFW post has built a committed community outreach program to assist and educate Milford families and individuals. In 2012 Blue Hen Post 6483 maintained a pantry for the less fortunate, assisted families with rent and heating oil and volunteered at local schools as mentors. Members of the post also held ceremonies recognizing Memorial Day and Pearl Harbor, educating the community about the sacrifices that United States service members have made.

“We reach out to the community and get involved any way that we can,” commented Mocevlski. “We fought for our communities in combat and now we want to continue our commitment to them.”

With an abundance of post members being Vietnam veterans, The VFW in Milford is encouraging veterans of more recent foreign wars, including Iraq and Afghanistan, to become members. As these newer veterans are statistically seeing more combat, redeploying overseas in some cases four and five times, commander Thompspon stresses the increased need for support from fellow veterans.

“These veterans are coming back to a family, wife and their community that have little knowledge of what they have experienced,” commented Dr. Thompson. “This place offers them support and brotherhood, it will benefit them and their families.”

Veterans and other individuals looking for more information on the Foreign Wars Blue Hen Post 6483 in Milford are encouraged to visit the post online at http://vfwmilfordde.com, contact the post at 302-422-4412 or at buddy@vfwmilfordde.com.
Here’s wishing everyone an art filled 2013! January certainly ushered itself in with a grand arty start – it’s all happening in Rivertown, Art Town, Hometown Milford.

Milford got double recognition by the State in their individual artists awards: the Delaware Division of the Arts awarded Anne Jenkins the 2013 Established Artist Fellowship for folk art-visual arts discipline and an Honorable Mention to Michele Xiques, Director of First State Academy of Dance. Congratulations to both winners.

Art on the Riverwalk Tour (ART) is a new public art project: Downtown Milford (DMI) is partnering with the Mispillion Art League, Milford Parks & Recreation Dept and Milford High School on an exciting 3-year public art project partially funded by the Delaware Division of the Arts and the Milford Lions Club. About ART: 4-foot “sculptures” of the classic yacht Augusta built by Vinyard Boat Yard in 1927 will be displayed permanently along the Mispillion River and throughout downtown over the next 3 years, 18 in all with 6 per year being the goal. The derelict Augusta was rescued by present owners of the yard, Sudler and Joan Lofland, and restored to its former glory. All artists living/working in Kent and Sussex Counties are invited to apply following the guidelines and timetable. Each paid artist awarded a sculpture to decorate/paint will work with High School students as a mentor throughout the process. For more info, contact Lee Nelson at (302)839-1190, e-mail Director@DowntownMilford.org or visit http://downtownmilford.org

Magic brightens the winter again from January-March. DMI’s Milford’s Magic Mondays Series opens with the first show on Monday, January 21. Magic and fun for the whole family! For info and online ticket purchase visit http://downtownmilford.org

We’re getting noticed! The Milford Art Stroll is featured on a 2-page spread in the 2013 Kent County Tourism brochure – a big thank you to Cindy Small and her team at Kent County Tourism.

Here’s a round up art spots and events in town – enjoy:

Anne Jenkins Art Gallery 127 NW Front St. (302) 393-6629 http://AnneJenkinsArt and http://facebook.com/annejenkinsartgallery

Created rule 23 N.W. Front St., gallery/studio located inside LadyBug Shop. (616) 328-4054

Diamond Dance Company 44 N. Walnut Street, Milford www.diamonddanceco.com

First State Academy of Dance 107 Maple Ave, Milford www.firststatedance.com

Gallery 37 #8 S. Walnut St. (413) 297-2690 http://marciareedpainting.com.


Milford Community Band http://milfordcommunityband.org or call Joe Lear at (302) 422-6304

Milford Art Stroll a self-guided studio & art tour. Check out the website to plan a visit – there’s a new map to print out – follow a route of your choice. Lots to enjoy right here in your hometown. http://MilfordArtStroll.com

Mispillion Art League Gallery 5 N. Walnut Street. Figure Drawing Session, Wednesday, January 9 from 5-7pm. The Holiday Show runs through end of January. “Celebration of Black Artists” opens January 30, from 5-8 p.m. Third Thursday on January 17 presents “Architecture of Milford” at 6:30 p.m. Free to the public. http://mispillionarts.org and https://www.facebook.com/MispillionArts


The Music School of DE, Milford Branch presents Family Concert: A Musical Storybook – Saturday, January 12 at, 10am – 12pm. Recommended for ages 4 and up. For tickets $5, call (302) 422-2043 or purchase at door.

Thanks for supporting the arts! Call me, or e-mail me with art news: anne@annejenkinsart.com

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In 2007 Milford resident Joan Muffler started a social organization known as Philly Pholks as a way to meet families that had moved from Philadelphia to the city of Milford. Encouraging individuals originally from the Greater Philadelphia Area to share camaraderie and stories about their lives in the City of Brotherly Love, the group is now celebrating its fifth year.

Group organizer Joan Muffler was raised in the 1500 block of Garnet Street in Philadelphia in a small neighborhood that consisted of the familiar row homes that make up most of Philadelphia. Being close with her neighbors, Joan found comfort in this way of life as a child and found a similar connection between families when she visited her daughter in Milford. Fourteen years ago, after working at the Bucks County Bank, Joan retired to Milford to spend more time with her daughter and decided that the small town would be a great place to live the next chapter of her life. She is now a very active member in the local Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6483, American Legion and a mentor at the Mispillion Elementary School.

“The living expenses were low and we were close to the beach but the people of Milford are what made us enjoy the area,” commented Joan. “After living here for just a short time we had felt like we had lived her forever and didn’t miss Philadelphia.”

John and Carol Kiefer have been members of Philly Pholks since it began in 2007 and enjoy talking with others from the Philadelphia area. The couple met in Philadelphia and lived together in North East Philly for 36 years before moving to Bucks County and then Milford 8 years ago. Originally from North Philadelphia, John spent 64 years of his life in the city founded by William Penn. Looking to retire on the East Coast of the United States, Carol and John looked at every state from Florida to Delaware to call home. After being taken on a tour of Milford by friends of a friend, the couple decided to settle down in Matlinds Estates in South East Milford.

“There is no traffic, the weather is a lot better and the people are all very nice,” commented Carol when asked what she and John liked about Milford. “We joined the gym and began to meet a lot of people. We decided to join Philly Pholks just to be able to talk with people that we had a lot in common with, it has been fun.”

Philly Pholks meets once a month at different local restaurants and takes trips back to the old neighborhoods during the year. Individuals and families from the Philadelphia area are encouraged to join and share their memories of growing up in Philadelphia with the group. Interested individuals should contact Joan Muffler at 302-422-2834 or midas22@verizon.net.
Bayhealth Milford Memorial welcomed the first baby of 2013 at 8:26 p.m. on Wednesday, January 2.

Born to parents Amy Donovan and Ashton Uhey of Milford, Liam Ryan Uhey weighed 9 lbs., 10 ¼ oz and was 22 inches. Not only is he Milford's first baby, he is also Amy and Ashton's first child, as well as the first grandchild for both sets of grandparents. Liam received a new car seat and gift basket in honor of being Milford Memorial’s first baby of the new year.

Pictured are (from left to right) Ashton Uhey; Amy Donovan with Liam; gynecologist/obstetrician Miaohou Xu, MD, PhD; Beth Lucas, RNC-MNN; Jaclyn Lewis, BSN, RN-CPN; and Nurse Manager Karen Kelly, RNC-OB, MSN.
The Milford Lions Club Service Foundation is accepting applications during January 2013 for grants from the Eunice S. Reed Fund to benefit the Greater Milford Community. The cutoff for applications is 5:00 pm, Thursday, January 31, 2013. Grants will be awarded prior to June 30, 2013. The Milford Lions Club has established this grant program to enable prospective recipients to develop or expand innovative projects of significant benefit to the Greater Milford Community.

The Reed Fund was established by the Milford Lions Club in 2006 to advance the wishes of a longtime Milford resident, Eunice S. Reed, to give back to the community she and her husband had lived in for so long. Upon her death, Eunice Reed left most of her estate to the Milford Lions Club to carry out its civic and public-welfare work. The Club plans to use the Reed Fund, in addition to its traditional community service projects, to help fund other worthwhile organizations in need of support or start-up money. It is expected that the Club will be able to continue this level of support well into the future.

Requests for a minimum of $5,000 by organizations are preferred, however smaller amounts will be considered. This is a matching program, with grant recipients required to provide at least 10% of total project funding, unless in the judgment of the Awards Committee the project merits waiver of this requirement. The application letter must include the purpose of the project, the amount being requested, how the funds are to be spent, and a schedule for completion of the project.

In 2012 the following grants were received and accepted by the Milford Lions Club Service Foundation: $5,000 to Calvary Café & Community Clothes Closet for support of homeless and needy youth; $2,000 to the Chamber of Commerce for Greater Milford for Riverwalk Festival fireworks; $4,000 to Circle of Light for support of homeless; $2,000 to Downtown Milford for Augusta sculptures; $1,700 to GFWC New Century Club for historic building repairs; $2,000 to Greater Milford Boys & Girls Club for an after-school creative arts program; $8,000 to Home of the Brave for establishing a female-veterans shelter; $6,800 to Milford Community Pantry to meet increased needs for food and hygiene items; $2,000 to Milford High School Football for concussion-reducing helmets; $3,000 to Milford High School Motivational Mentoring Program to support additional growth; $3,000 to Milford High School Santa’s Workshop to continue the program; $2,000 to Milford Little League for facilities improvements; $4,700 to Milford Middle School Corner Store to provide clothing for needy students; $4,000 to Milford School District / Milford Police Department for an anti-bullying program; $5,000 to Milford Senior Center for security and a new ice machine; $2,000 to Mispillion Art League for art scholarships; and $2,000 to People’s Place for counseling of needy adults.

Eligible applicants include schools and other youth organizations, non-profit organizations, public welfare organizations, environmental groups, civic associations, etc. Cooperative partnerships involving multiple parties, including private industry are also welcome to apply. Grants will be awarded to applicants whose projects, in the judgment of the Milford Lions Club, will be most beneficial to this community. Application forms are available on the Milford Lions Club website, www.milfordlions22d.com, or from members of the Milford Lions Club. Return completed applications to: Awards Committee Chairperson, Milford Lions Club Service Foundation, P.O. Box 25, Milford, DE 19963.

By Bryan Shupe
Milford 2013 Trash, Recycling, Yard Waste Information

Below you can find the 2013 Trash and Recycling Schedule and detailed information on the Curbside Recycling and Yard Waste Collection Programs. For further information visit http://cityofmilford.com/DocumentView.aspx?DID=766 or call the City of Milford Public Works Department at 302-422-6616, ext. 100.

Curbside Recycling

About Our Program

The city’s recycling program is now in its seventh year and remains free of charge, including free recycling containers. Recycling reduces the volume of trash sent to the landfill, saves the city money, and is environmentally friendly.

Collection occurs on Thursdays; to obtain the 2013 Trash/Recycling Collection Schedule, please visit our website at www.CityofMilford.com or you may also obtain a copy at our City Hall Library or City of Milford office. A $5 or $10 pickup fee will be assessed if the cart is provided at all times. The cart must be placed at the curb on your designated Thursday morning before 7:00 am for collection.

Accepted Materials*

- Cardboard
- Glass bottles/jars (any color)
- Metal cans
- Newspapers (all grades)
- Mixed paper (all grades)
- Plastic (for #1-7 plastic)
- HDPE: bottles & jugs (clean, unopened)
- LDPE: bottles & jugs (clean, unopened)
- Polypropylene/Plastic Jugs (clean, unopened)
- Paper
- Mixed materials (except glass)
- Plastic grocery bags
- Telephone/Cell phone books
- Roofing/Asphalt/Asphalt Shingles
- *Plastics: only #1-7 plastics, those items, labeled as recyclable by the recycling code, are accepted.

*For proper disposal of UNACCEPTABLE items, please visit www.rumpke.com for more info.

Unaccepted Materials*

- Newspapers (all grades)
- Torn or damaged, broken, or flattened containers
- Light bulbs (all types)
- Furniture (all types)
- Household hazardous waste
- Electronics
- Battery Cans (large batteries)
- Painters Pails (large)

Yard Waste

About Our Program

In an effort to improve how yard waste is collected and removed in the City of Milford, amendments were recently made to Chapter 153 of the City Code (Garbage Waste). Residents are encouraged to go online and familiarize themselves with all of the changes by visiting the updated code at www.CityofMilford.com.

The City of Milford will continue to pick up yard waste, without any additional charges for the residents. However, in order to continue to offer a curbside service, some modifications are going to occur, these are as follows:

- Yard waste will be picked up every Wednesday from April 1st to October 31st of each year. A bi-weekly service will be offered, with Residents’ yard waste being picked up the 2nd, 4th, and 6th week of the month.
- The City will issue a decal yard waste container (at no charge) to those residents who request one, and come in sizes 95, 40, and 20 gallon. Residents should call the Public Works Administrative Assistant (Christine Harpsey) at 422-6616 ext 110 to order a container.
- In an effort to eliminate unreasonable piles of yard debris, the City issued yard waste container will be the only acceptable container, all the other used transparent containers will no longer be used. Also anything outside of the container will no longer be picked up, including piles of yard waste and dropped yard waste.
- Containers have been ordered by the City of Milford, and once these containers have arrived they will be delivered to those residents who have requested one.
- All containers will be delivered over the coming months to those residents who request one. Yard waste pick-up in the new containers will begin the week of April 1st, 2013.
- From November 1st through January 31st of each year, the City will offer its leaf vacuum service. Leaves should be raked to the curb, but not in the street. In order to help eliminate piles of leaves from being in the street, Public Works is asking residents to place a suitable cover over their leaf pile (this will be placed back on the homeowner’s property once the leaves have been removed).
- Leaf pick-up will be offered on an as-needed basis during the months November to January. In an effort to cover the entire City, the leaf pick-up will be offered to all residents once a week, if residents have more leaves to be vacuumed they must wait until the following week.
- The leaf vacuum program operates on the following schedule: Monday 1st week, Tuesday 2nd week, Wednesday 3rd week, Thursday 4th week (weather permitting).

The Public Works Departments thanks you in advance as we implement this new system, and we are confident it will be a well thought and efficient program. If you have further questions in the coming months, please feel free to contact us at anytime at 422-6616 ext.110.
Even with marching season over and a winter concert in the bag, the Milford High School band still has a lot to do in the new year of 2013. Mrs. Christine Smith, the band director, said that she remains happy about how the past band events went this year and looks forward to all that is coming up. With the second semester of the school year coming to an end, the students all know that it means “playing test time.” Every student is required to take a playing test individually which Mrs. Smith then listens to and grades.

The students must play specific scales on their instrument randomly selected by Mrs. Smith with each scale set in different keys. They must also play the chromatic scale, a 12-note scale which also includes all the half-notes of the octave in which they are playing.

Adding to the difficulty, students must perform these scales all by memory. Besides the scales, the students must play a piece of music selected by Mrs. Smith which she grades on accuracy of the notes played, tone, volume, as well as whether the student performed the correct musical articulation specified by the piece of music.

“I’m nervous but confident that I will do well because of practicing,” said MHS junior band student Taylor Hoey about taking the test.

Besides getting a grade for all of this, students also get assigned a specific “chair” after completing the test. For instance, getting “first chair” is like getting first place, and so on. Their musical proficiency will later determine the level of difficulty of music they may play in performances. Nevertheless, even though first chair music may be more challenging than others, Mrs. Smith said that she likes having the strong players on all difficulties of music to ensure an even blend of harmonies in all ranges.

“I make sure to review the music in the weeks beforehand,” said MHS senior band student Alex Huey.

Though she has known most of her veteran band students for several years, Mrs. Smith said she can get to hear each individual one-on-one, which allows her to hear any students she may have missed and make new judgments on whom will play what parts in upcoming performances. She and her students excitedly await the approaching Spring Concert which will be held at Milford High auditorium on the evening of May 21.
Business owners Tracie and Tim Riley held a Grand Opening for their new business, All About the Swing, on Saturday, January 5. The new indoor batting and training facility, located at 6467 Milford Harrington Highway, is open to baseball and softball enthusiasts, players and teams of all ages seven days a week. The site includes three astroturfed batting tunnel for ball training, practice and lessons.

Tim and Tracie have been avid sports fans for years and have been involved with adult softball leagues for the past two decades. As Tim continued his love for the sport on the diamond as an adult, the couple noticed that there were few places in Delaware to practice hitting and skills during the offseason. Looking at places to host the indoor batting and training facility for over a year, Tracie and her husband were determined to answer the call for local training themselves.

“There just isn’t anything in this area to help players train in the offseason,” commented Tracie. “We knew for a number of years that we wanted to do this but we wanted to wait until we were ready. We are the type of people that see something, want to do it and then go for it.”

Tracie and Tim hope that the facility will assist local athletes of all ages in reaching their full potential in their chosen sport. In addition to individual and team batting practice, All About the Swing, will offer lessons, clinics and a place to host events. The facility will encourage recreational and serious athletes to improve their skills in a motivating atmosphere.

“We hope that this will be a growing business and become a place where kids and adults practice,” commented Tracie. “We also hope that it gives families a reason to get the kids off their ipods and computers and moving again.”

All About the Swing is open Monday through Friday 3pm to 9pm, Saturday 10am to 9pm and Sunday 10am to 6pm. For more information on the facility visit http://www.allabouttheswing.com.

Indoor Batting Facility Opens
By Bryan Shupe

Sports of the Week

Thursday, January 3
Basketball – Girls Varsity
Milford HS 50, Caesar Rodney HS 52

Friday, January 4
Basketball – Boys Varsity
Caesar Rodney HS 59, Milford HS 69

Saturday, January 5
Wrestling Varsity
Delcastle Invitational
Team Scoring
1 Sussex Central (SC) 270
2 Saint Marks (SM) 208
3 Delaware Military (DMA) 197.5
4 Cape Henlopen (CH) 194
5 Polytech (PT) 182
6 Delcastle (Del) 150
7 Milford (Mil) 135.5
8 Newark (New) 109
9 Caravel (Car) 85
10 Archmere (Arch) 59
11 AI duPont (AI) 52.5
12 McKean (McK) 27
13 Conrad (Con) 22
14 Brandywine (Br) 20
During the recently completed 2012 football season, there was one constant. No matter how bad the loss, no matter how discouraging the results would appear, there was never any panic. While the total of wins never reached the goal for the season, Milford just appeared to dig deeper and refused to let the fact that they had lost a football game define who they were.

Talking to coach Mike Tkach recently, he felt that one of the key elements was the association of the football team had with the the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA). FCA is an interdenominational Christian organization that seeks to strengthen the word of Christ, through athletics. While the FCA has been around for several years, this season was the first time that members of the football team asked to be active in the organization. When approached about the idea, Coach Tkach didn't hesitate. “There are a great many challenges that the kids today are faced with and with the opportunity for such a positive venue, we were happy to embrace it,” Tkach said.

FCA finds its roots at Milford from soccer coach Ken Outten. Athletic director Glen Stevenson believes that Outten has done a wonderful job with the program. “Ken has been fantastic, it has always been about the positive aspect that the program represents,” commented Stevenson. “It’s great to know that it simply isn’t about sports, it’s about character.”

One of the key aspects of the program was Bible study, every Tuesday night, where there was solid participation of about 18 athletes. On game nights there were typically 20 to 23 participants for pre-game chapel. During these events, Tkach believes that the kids gained a better understanding of themselves, as well as each other. “Repeatedly, they would open each others eyes as to what each other was about,” stated Coach Tkach.“That was what was so special; the more they learned about each other, the more they realized how much they had in common.”

The religious aspect goes without saying, but there was an aspect that did not go unnoticed as the football season wore on. Milford struggled after getting off to a 2-0 start to the season, winning only one of their final eight games. However, unlike in seasons past, where the team has faced adversity, they refused to become petty and small. They chose to dig deeper, be better human beings. It is this turn of events that Tkach attributes directly to the program. “One of the the great dividends is the faith that the kids have is translating to all aspects of life,” commented Tkach. “It’s great to see them growing up in many different ways.”
**Events Around Town**

By Bryan Shupe

**Milford P&R Winter Program Registration**

Register your children now for one of our winter programs. Toddler swimming begins Jan. 15 and ends Jan 31st, Tues. & Thurs. 1-1:30 for 3 & 4 y.o. and 1:30-2pm for 5 & up. Only $40. Session II: Feb. 13-March 1, Wed. & Fri. Gymnastics & Tumbling – 6 Sat. mornings beginning Jan 5. For 45 min., youth aged 3-10, ONLY $40 for more details. Try our website at www.cityofmilford.com and link to The Parks and Recreation Department & winter brochure.

**Chicken & Dumpling Dinner**

Saturday, Jan 12, from 4pm to 7pm at Carlisle Fire Hall, Milford, De. Adults $10.00, Children Under 10 are $5.00. Takeouts $12.00. Only 150 tickets to be sold do hurry and get yours. For tickets call 302-422-6097 or 302-424-1979. Sponsored by Ladies Auxiliary Carlisle Fire Co.

**New Museum Exhibit Features Nursing**

On Tuesday January 22, 2013, the Museum will open its new exhibit depicting the history of the Milford Memorial Hospital School of Nursing 1925-1976. This exhibit will focus on nursing memorabilia collected by Mrs. Amelia Donovan McSweeney. Mrs. McSweeney was a graduate of the Class of 1934.

The Museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 am to 3:30 pm and Sunday from 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm. It is closed on Monday and Holidays. For more information please call 424-1080.

**Kick Off Party – Relay For Life**

Would you like to learn more about Relay for Life. Come to our Kick Off Party for more details on how to register, raise funds or sponsor. Please contact us if you have any questions. Held at the Milford Park and Rec. building at 207 Franklin Street, Milford, DE 19963 on January 22 from 6:30 to 9. Contact: Sarah Fox at milfordrelayde@gmail.com or 302-535-4338. For more information visit www.relayforlife.org/milfordde.

**Citizen’s Police Academy**

Beginning February 13 and running each Wednesday evening thru April 10. The Academy will provide the attendee working knowledge of the Milford Police Department and police work in general. Classes will focus on such things as Criminal Investigation, Crime Scene Investigation, DUI Investigation, Firearms, Arrest Procedures, Taser, Special Operations, etc. They will also get a tour of the Delaware State Police Academy and Museum. Applicants will have to pass a background check to be accepted into the program. Applications are available at the Milford Police Department or online at www.cityofmilford.com. For further information contact Lt. Kenneth Brown at 422-8081 or by email at kenneth.brown@cj.state.de.us