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photo link: Mt. Cuba Center

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UD Freshman Killed by Motorcyclist



Traffic Near Wilmington Courthouse to Change



Comeback Win for Lake Forest

photo link: Delaware Forest Service



Headlines

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SUSSEX VETERANS TREATMENT COURT TO GRADUATE 100TH PARTICIPANT

BY JAREK RUTZ

The Sussex County Veterans Treatment Court will celebrate a milestone Thursday as its 100th participant graduates.

Veterans Treatment Court is generally available to veterans who are charged with nonviolent felonies and misdemeanors. Participants must attend regular court status conferences, participate in the development of their treatment plans, engage in community groups as required and cooperate with veteran mentors. Many in the program credit the mentor component as one of the keys to its success. Qualified Veterans on probation may be eligible for an early discharge upon graduating from the program, if appropriate.

Delaware has several “problem-solving” courts, like the Veterans Treatment Court, the Mental Health Court

and the Reentry Court. All have had positive outcomes on public safety and recidivism and are cost effective, according to program leaders.

With over 4,000 in existence throughout the country, the goal of a Veterans Treatment Court is to divert veterans who are charged with nonviolent felonies and misdemeanor crimes away from jail and into rehabilitative programs. The Sussex County Veterans Treatment Court includes a judge, court staff, prosecutors and defense attorneys, Delaware and [Veterans Affairs](#) treatment managers and probation officers, about two dozen volunteer mentors and community and Veteran Support Organizations.

Graduates complete tailored treatment plans, become stably housed and employed, acquire skills to manage

life’s logistical and emotional challenges, and are helped to receive any benefits still due from the state of Delaware and U.S. Veterans Affairs.

After completion of their court treatment program and graduation, typically a period of nine to 16 months, if the Veteran was not yet convicted, charges will be dismissed. If the Veteran was already convicted, probation may be terminated and the collection of most fines and other court costs may also be waived.

The first Veterans Treatment Court in Delaware was established in Kent County in 2011 and the presiding judge who established it is still in contact with his first graduate. The first Sussex County Veterans Treatment Court session was in October 2014.

SUSSEX TREATMENT BREAKDOWN

As of Thursday, its graduates will include 92 men and eight women who have been able to return with dignity to being productive community members. Program officials are happy that in just 10 years, so many veterans have been helped and have gotten back on track with their lives, said Judge Craig A. Karsnitz, Sussex County Resident Judge. He heads the program in Georgetown.

“These men and women, who served our country, faced unique challenges on their return to civilian life,” he said, “and this program helps both them and our community at large by addressing underlying issues with these individuals that led to their involvement with the justice system.”

About two dozen veterans, all men, have failed to graduate and were reincarcerated or returned to extended probation for violating Veterans Treatment Court requirements.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



COULD MARSH ROAD GET A ROUNDABOUT?

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

“Heard from an impacted neighbor there is a roundabout going in at Baynard Blvd. and Marsh Rd,” a post on Facebook began. “Anyone have additional insights or information on the details?”

This being a well-connected Delaware, it took just 10 hours for official insights.

“A roundabout is one of the concepts that will be developed for resolving the safety issues at that intersection,” C.R. McLeod, director of community relations at the Delaware Department of Transportation, wrote on Facebook. “Options will be presented at a public meeting once design is complete. This does not mean it is definitely happening, it is just one possibility. Roundabouts slow traffic and reduce the number of crashes, both of which are issues at this location.”

“We are still completing the land survey of the intersection and have not yet started design on improve-

ments,” he elaborated to DelawareLIVE. “We currently are estimating having a public workshop about the project next spring to present concepts to the public.”

The intersection in question is in North Wilmington, just west of the Marsh Road interchange with Interstate 95. Since 2019, there have been more than 20 crashes at this intersection, McLeod added.

Marsh runs straight for quite a stretch, passing a few smaller roads before intersecting with Baynard, which in one direction leads into a subdivision and in the other is busy enough to carry double yellow no-passing stripes.

ALL ABOUT ROUNDABOUTS

Roundabouts are not common in Delaware, according to a [DelDOT map](#) that counts 33 of them. They’re most prevalent in southern New Castle County, with four along Jamison Corner Road near Middletown. Northern New Castle County has just three, two created

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near Alapocas Run State Park and the third leading into The Pilot School.

“A well-designed strategically placed roundabout has several benefits,” DelDOT [writes](#). “National studies have indicated that serious and fatal crashes have been reduced by 70 to 90 percent at locations where roundabouts were installed.

“Overall delays may be reduced due to the smooth flow of vehicle traffic rather than the stop-and-go traffic of normal intersections. The central island is often landscaped to help beautify the intersection.”



18-YEAR-OLD WOMAN, FRESHMAN AT UD KILLED BY MOTORCYCLIST

BY JAREK RUTZ

Update Aug. 30, at 9:12 a.m.: Newark Police announced the identity of the motorcyclist. 27-year-old Brian Briddle of Newark was released from Christiana Hospital and is now being held at Howard Young Correctional Institution on \$362,005 cash bail. He's charged with second degree murder and a number of traffic offenses.

The day after the University of Delaware welcomed the thousands of students in its entire freshman class with its annual twilight induction ceremony on The Green, one student was struck and killed by a motorcyclist.

Tuesday night around 11:50 p.m., a first-year UD student died in a traffic accident near campus, which was witnessed by many of her friends and classmates.

"Incidents such as this are unimaginably tragic," said a joint statement issued by President Dennis Assanis and Vice President José-Luis Riera. "We cannot express enough how sorry we are for the family, friends, and greater community as we are all so deeply shaken by the

sudden loss of one of our own. Our hearts are very heavy today."

The 18-year-old woman from New Jersey was in a crosswalk at West Main Street near North College Avenue when she was hit. After the crash, the driver was thrown from the motorcycle, which was hurled onto the sidewalk and hit four other pedestrians, leaving one of them hospitalized with injuries that are not life-threatening. The three others did not need to go to the hospital. The vehicle also struck a light pole.

"We know that many students, parents and others in our community join us in expressing grief and grave concern," UD's statement said. "Especially in a moment like this, we must all come together, to lean on each other, and to do so with extra kindness and empathy. Together, we are stronger, and we must live this truth in the coming days. We are one Blue Hen community."

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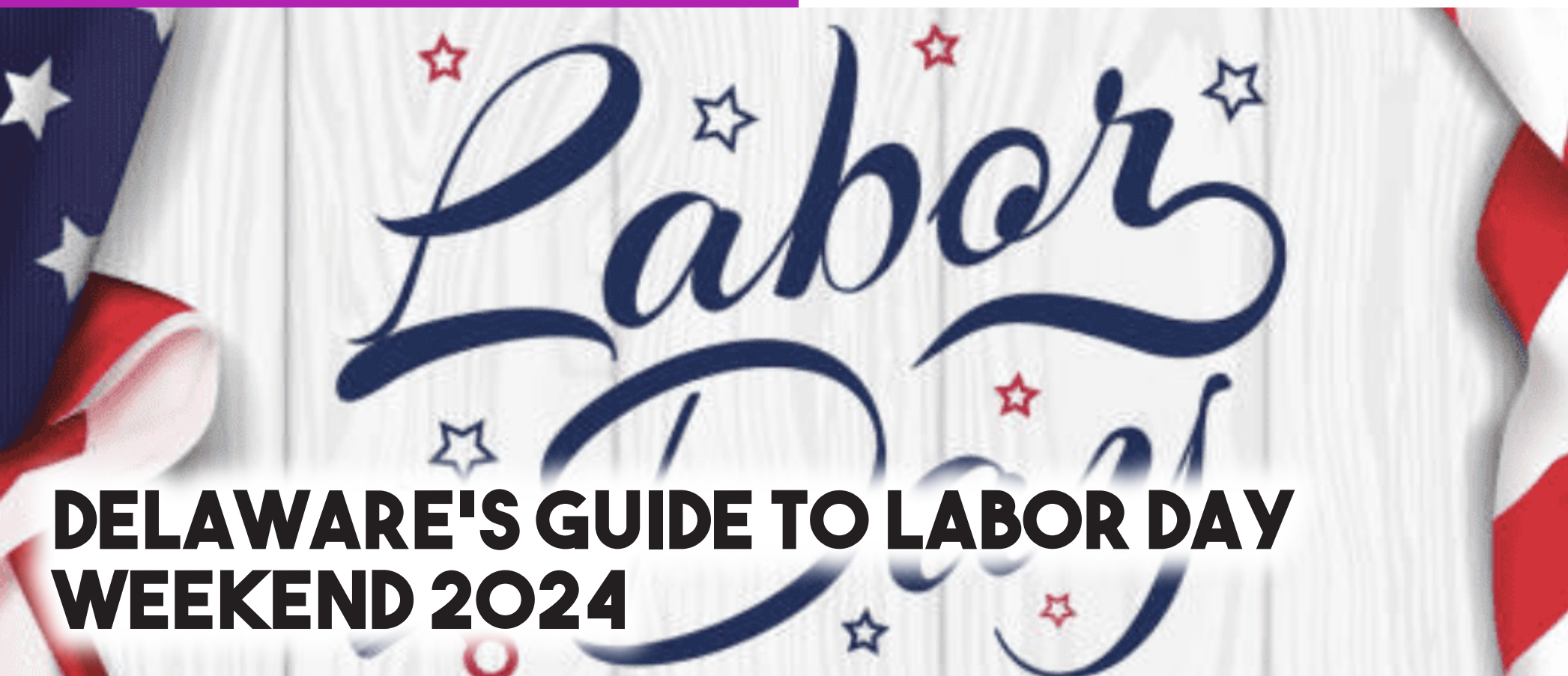
 Sunday Breakfast Mission



photo link: Delaware Symphony Orchestra

Culture

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DELAWARE'S GUIDE TO LABOR DAY WEEKEND 2024

BY JAREK RUTZ

A holiday that celebrates the contributions of American workers also marks the unofficial end of summer. Labor Day was first celebrated on Sept. 5, 1882, in New York City, and in 1887, Oregon became the first state making a law to recognize the day. On June 24, 1894, Congress passed an act making the holiday the first Monday in September.

With Labor Day Weekend approaching, here's how to plan for and celebrate the last hoorah.

WEATHER

The weather should get progressively better and the clouds will break on Labor Day Monday, according to the [National Weather Service](#). Sunday has a 30% chance of rain with a high of 86, but the sun should peek out throughout the day, and Sunday night will drop to 67,

again with a 30% chance of rain.

Labor Day Monday will be mostly sunny with a high of 79 and some clouds will come in during the late afternoon as temperatures drop to 57, with no rain expected.

GAS PRICES

The average price for a gallon of gas in Delaware is \$3.19, down 47 cents from this time last year, according to [AAA Mid-Atlantic](#), a regional travel agency. It's about two cents cheaper in New Castle County and about 17 cents cheaper per gallon than the national average.

Thursday and Friday, along with Labor Day Monday, are expected to be the busiest days on the road, so AAA advises that drivers leave early in the morning those days to avoid backups.

WHAT TO DO LABOR DAY WEEKEND

- Magician Rich Bloch is performing every night through Monday at the [Dickens Parlour Theatre](#) in Ocean View.
- Rehoboth Beach's [Clear Space Theatre Company](#) is hosting "Jersey Boys" and "Rock of Ages" nightly through Saturday.
- New Castle Battery Park, at 1 Delaware Street in New Castle, will have a Labor Day Festival from noon to 8 p.m. Sunday. The price for adults is \$10 and children are \$5. Buy tickets [HERE](#). There will be food, drinks, cover bands, DJs, fireworks, childrens' games and more.
- [Captain Blue Hens Comics](#), at 80 East Main Street in Newark, is having a comics and collectables show and flea market on Labor Day from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.



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This program is brought to you by the Delaware Breast Cancer Coalition.



TICKETS TO LONGWOOD UNVEILING, CHRISTMAS DISPLAY NOW ON SALE

BY BETSY PRICE

The holidays may be a time for feasting, but in 2024 Longwood Gardens is going to be offering a feast for the eyes. It will unveil the massive [Longwood Reimagined](#) that's been underway since 2021 on Nov. 22, and [A Longwood Christmas](#) will open the same day. Tickets are on sale now for both, and the Kennett Square, PA, attraction is offering a special buffet dinner option as well as an exquisite new space for its 1906 Restaurant.

The Christmas display will be open daily through Jan. 12, 2025, and a ticket to it will include all the new display spaces created by the \$250 million Longwood Reimagined: a New Garden Experience program. Timed tickets are required and the Christmas displays sell out quickly for weekends. Tickets are \$42 for adults, \$24 for ages 5 to 18; and \$8 for Museums for All and PA ACCESS Cardholders. Buy them [HERE](#).

The revitalization is designed to enhance the customer experience as well as expand opportunities for exhibitions, programs and events.

“As we stand on the brink of an exciting new chapter in Longwood Gardens’ illustrious history, I am thrilled to welcome guests to experience Longwood Reimagined: A New Garden Experience during our holiday season,” said Paul Redman, president and CEO of Longwood Gardens for 16 years.

Redman has overseen a massive transformation at the former du Pont estate, adding a meadow garden, a \$90 million redo of its main fountain complex that permits shows of colored fountains dancing to music and now the Longwood Reimagined experience.

“A Longwood Christmas is always a magical time of year, and this year promises to be even more special as we invite visitors to explore new areas and 17 acres of revitalized beauty, including two new glasshouses and stunning gardens and water features,” Redman said in a press release.

Guests can explore three acres under glass that's been decorated for the holiday season with unique horticultural highlights.

The East Conservatory will be transformed into a snow globe with delicate decorations forming a vision of snowy winter magic. Fantastical holiday trees will seemingly float in mid-air above the lush lawn in the historic Main Conservatory.

The Music Room will feature a sweet holiday gathering, adorned in peppermint-themed finery, while the Fern Floor features a shimmering 30-foot tall tree created by [Studio Roso](#) of Denmark designed to evoke the crystalline beauty of the new West Conservatory.

Outside, the more than half a million twinkling lights will be spread across hundreds of acres and festive fountain shows.

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“
We saw a boost in website referrals from Delaware LIVE during our admission season.
- URSULINE ACADEMY

DESPITE FOUR BANK ROBBERIES, POLICE SAY LESS THAN '23

BY BETSY PRICE

There’s been four bank robberies throughout the First State since the end of April, something the **Delaware State Police** say they have taken notice of. However, the overall number of bank robberies this year is lower compared to the same period last year, said India Sturgis, spokesperson for the organization.

“We continue to thoroughly investigate each incident and work closely with our law enforcement partners to identify and apprehend those responsible,” she said. “Currently, there is no clear evidence suggesting that these incidents are connected or part of a broader trend associated with economic conditions.”

Nonetheless, she said, the state police remain vigilant and are taking all necessary measures to ensure the safety of our communities and financial institutions.

Here’s all the bank robberies that happened in recent months:

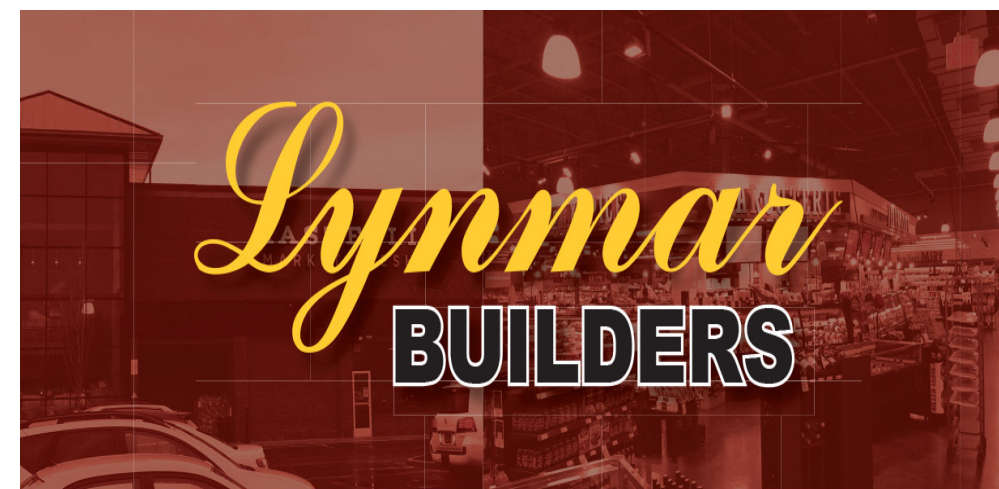
- 8/5: M&T Bank in Claymont

- 7/27: Franklin Mint Federal Credit Union in Bear (and carjacking)
- 7/16: WSFS Bank in Wilmington
- 7/9: PNC Bank in Dover

There was also an arrest made related to identity theft at a Citizens Bank in Wilmington on August 12. Arrests have been made in relation to all robberies, including an arrest on Friday of 30-year-old Enrico Mancuso for the July 9 and July 16 incidents.

There were six bank robberies in 2023, according to Sturgis. “We encourage the public to stay aware and report any suspicious activity near banks or financial institutions,” Sturgis said. “As always, the DSP is committed to protecting the citizens of our state and maintaining public safety.”

Attempts to reach economic experts from Wilmington University, University of Delaware and Delaware State University were unsuccessful.



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THE POINT AT CAPE HENLOPEN STATE PARK REOPENS SUNDAY

BY JAREK RUTZ

A chunk of [Cape Henlopen State Park](#), where the Delaware Bay meets the Atlantic Ocean in Lewes, will reopen Sunday. The [Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control](#) announced that The Point will be open to the public Sept. 1 after being closed off since March.

It's an annual closure that's happened since 1993 to protect threatened and endangered beach-nesters and migratory shorebirds. Notably, those birds include piping plovers, oystercatchers, least terns, red knots and others.

The Point has a rich history: for years, native people lived off the land's abundant and rich resources. In the late 17th century, William Penn granted the land and allowed citizens to harvest some of those resources.

Its position led to the construction of Fort Miles during World War II with its fire control towers along the Atlantic coast, which served as a federal defensive site, training area and testing location.

Closing The Point to visitors has allowed an area of undisturbed beach and intertidal habitat for birds to rest and feed after the breeding season. This year, eight piping plover chicks successfully fledged from nests here and at least 11 least tern chicks hatched. Also, 24 species of shorebirds, 10 species of terns—including the federally threatened roseate tern—and seven species of gull are among the species observed at The Point.

The bayside beach will remain closed until Oct. 1 for use by shorebirds migrating south for the winter.



*State of Delaware
Department of Elections
elections.delaware.gov*



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Ways to vote,



Where to vote,



**Election Dates
& Deadlines**

HOCKESSIN TO GET NEW CELL PHONE TOWER, MORE TO BE BUILT

BY JAREK RUTZ

Some dead-zones in Hockessin will be eradicated with the addition of a new 160-foot cell tower. Located at 7259 Lancaster Pike in Hockessin, the addition had a groundbreaking ceremony Thursday at the [Hockessin Police Athletic League](#).

Cell phone reception along with internet availability has become a popular topic in recent years, especially with the pandemic highlighting some of the accessibility issues for some that made working or virtual learning difficult.

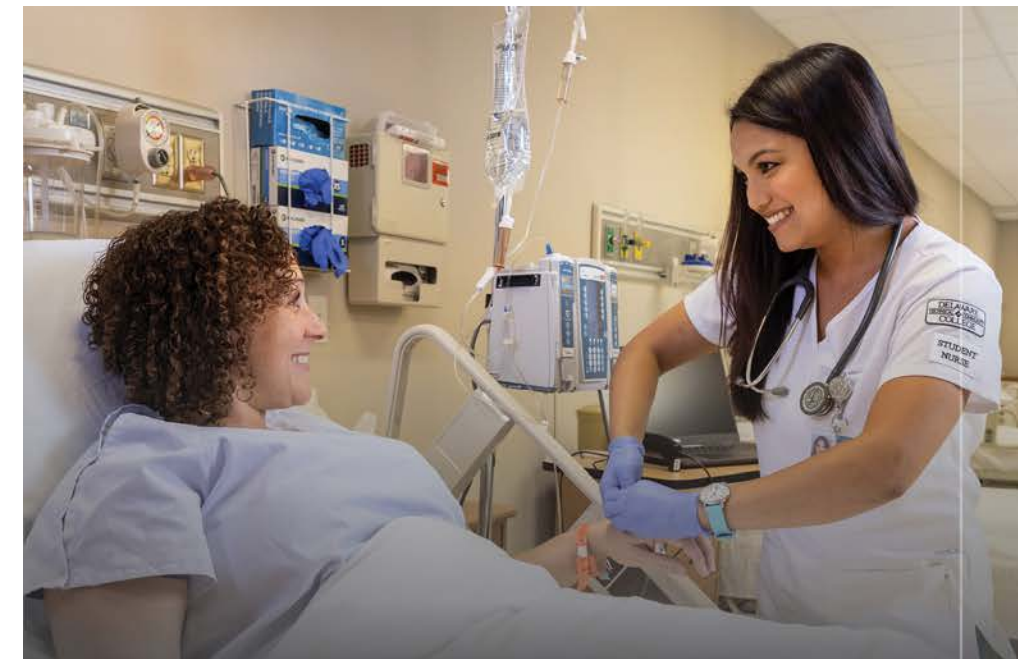
“This is a long time coming, but I’m so happy we’re taking this big first step,” said Rep. Mike Smith, R-Pike

Creek, who helped lead the charge for the project. “This is about more than convenience. It’s been a big safety issue.”

There are two other cell phone towers scheduled to go up, in Townsend and Middletown.

Funds for the project, about \$1.3 million, are coming from the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

“This is the first of a few towers that will be going up in the area,” Smith said. “Residents and businesses won’t have to worry about dropping calls or worry if they can get through to 911 soon enough.”



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*Students must meet eligibility requirements. Course fees and books are not covered by the SEED Scholarship.



photo link: Delaware State Chamber



Business



STATE \$\$\$ TO HELP NEWARK DAIRY UPGRADE FILLING MACHINES

BY BETSY PRICE

A woman-owned organic dairy headquartered in Newark has been given an \$858,400 state grant to help update equipment. Stephanie McVaugh, who in January bought **Natural Dairy Products Corp.** where she had been working since 1991, will apply that money to \$4.3 million in new equipment to support the company's Shelf-Life Extension Project. The dairy will replace aging, inefficient filling machines, some from the 1960s, that cannot provide the longer shelf life the industry now requires.

McVaugh, a Goldey-Beacom graduate, moved the 30-year-old business from Pennsylvania to Delaware for better utilities and Newark's strategic location along Interstate 95. Her grant comes from a pilot program dubbed the Modernization Investment Support Initiative funding. It's designed to help Delaware businesses

evolve and remain competitive within their industries. "Agriculture is Delaware's number one industry. Natural Dairy will use this grant to upgrade their equipment and stay competitive," said Gov. John Carney. "This is what the Modernization Investment Support Initiative is designed to do—help companies like Natural Dairy stay and grow in the First State."

The Modernization program was created in 2023 following a proposal by Delaware Prosperity Partnership and the state Division of Small Business. Up to \$5 million from the Delaware Strategic Fund has been approved for distribution through the pilot to help existing Delaware companies preemptively avert or reduce future potential risks to jobs and operations.

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FIVE NAMED AS BUSINESS LEADERS HALL OF FAME LAUREATES



BY BETSY PRICE

Five Delawareans have been selected as the 2024 Delaware Business Leaders Hall of Fame Laureates. Picked by the board of directors of Junior Achievement of Delaware and Delaware Business Leaders Hall of Fame board, the recognition honors those who serve as role models to thousands of Delaware youth.

This year's class focuses on the arts and Wilmington Riverfront, and inductees include art entrepreneurs and advocates and a riverfront development leader.

Here's who is honored:

- Tina Betz, artist/advocate: Director of Cultural Affairs for the city of Wilmington
- Christian Kanienberg, artist/entrepreneur of **Wish Painting**
- Eunice LaFate, artist/entrepreneur and advocate of **Lafate Gallery**
- Cleveland Morris, founder of the **Delaware Theatre Company**

- Michael Purzycki, former Riverfront Development Corporation director

There will be an induction ceremony the night of Oct. 8, at the Delaware Theatre Company in Wilmington to honor the class of five.

“I am honored to be named a 2024 Delaware Business Leaders Hall of Fame Laureate,” Betz said. “This recognition underscores the vital role of the arts in enriching individuals, strengthening communities and contributing to the world.”

LaFate said she is “very delighted with the news” that she’s have been chosen as one of the Laureates.

Kanienberg said he’s over the moon for this personal milestone. “I have been an ‘artist in residence’ at JA of Delaware for the past 20 years,” he said, “with countless fit-outs, new builds, murals and creative upgrades over the past two decades with several happening at present.”





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BRANMAR PLAZA PROMISES NICER PARKING LOT, LESS FUNKY EXIT

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

Who would think that so many people would be so passionate about a parking lot? John M. Young got dozens of comments in the Facebook “What’s Going There in Delaware” [group](#) when he posted this: “The owners of [Branmar Plaza](#) are reworking the parking lot. New drains (much needed) and new curbing creating new lanes.”

Maybe the interest is because the shopping center, at Marsh and Silverside roads in Brandywine Hundred, has been “a staple of the community” for so many decades. Maybe it’s because consumers noticing the new facades in the 150,000-square-foot shopping center were wondering if the lot would be spiffed up. Maybe it’s because the lot has been patched, repatched and re-repatched for so long.

Good news: If all goes according to plan, the new lot will be done by the holidays, with more spaces and a better layout.

“There have been growing pains and hand-wringing,” said Michael Turick, senior director of commercial properties for Capano Management, “but we are confident it will be a strong improvement and a welcome change.”

The shopping center has spaces for three dozen stores in five buildings and is more than 90% occupied, he said. The entrance/exit on Silverside is a (relatively) straight shot. It will remain “largely the same,” he said. Directly across Silverside is the site of the future [Forwood Commons](#), a mixed-used development including three dozen townhomes and several commercial properties.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



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photo link: SoDel Concepts



Food & Dining

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THE BLACKWALL BARN & LODGE COMING TO AVENUE NORTH

BY PAM GEORGE

The new **Avenue North** community in Fairfax is getting another restaurant. Developer Delle Donne & Associates recently announced that **The Blackwall Barn & Lodge** would open a 12,000-square-foot restaurant and meeting facility on the 80-acre mixed-use campus, formerly AstraZeneca’s property. The 400-seat restaurant, which will have a private room for up to 150, should open in fall 2025.

“This is our first **Titan Hospitality** concept in Delaware and we are excited to join Avenue North and bring an upscale dining restaurant and private event space to Wilmington’s growing and thriving community,” said James King, founder and CEO of the hospitality company.

Ernest Delle Donne, chairman of Delle Donne & Associates, said the meeting space will be an asset. “You can imagine what a great amenity this will be to all the

office users not only on our site but also in the immediate area,” he explained. “We have over 14,000 employees in that quadrant.”

Those businesses include **JPMorganChase, Nemours Children’s Health, AstraZeneca, Solenis** and **ChristianaCare**.

IN GOOD COMPANY

Avenue North already includes a **Brew HaHa!** In July, well-known chef Robert Lhulier signed the lease for Sardella Mediterranean Cantina. The 3,000-square-foot Sardella will be on one side of the building, and The Blackwall Barn & Lodge will be on the other.

Presently, The Blackwall Barn has locations in Gambrills and Columbia, MD. The concept is devoted to seasonal foods. “We are passionate about bringing our customers local and fresh ingredients within a 100-mile radius,” King said.

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photo credit: Lewes Fire Department

Government





TRAFFIC NEAR WILMINGTON COURTHOUSE TO CHANGE

- The parking entrance from North King Street will sometimes be inaccessible, but the Walnut Street entrance will remain open.

The \$76.7 million **renovation** of the 19th Custom House at 516 N. King is expected to take about 20 months and end in 2026. It was built in 1855 and was one of the first federal buildings outside Washington, D.C, or New York, and the first federal building in Delaware.

The project will add a 51,650-square foot wrap-around addition to the 15,000-square-foot building, and restore the second-floor courtroom. It will be used for ceremonial functions and non-jury legal proceedings.

COURTHOUSE TRAFFIC

During the construction, there will be access into and out of the courthouse parking garage from Walnut Street. Using the address 537 North Walnut Street on a GPS device will bring you to the Walnut Street entrance.

The Delaware Judiciary is encouraging the use of mass transportation to get to the Leonard Williams Justice Center during the construction period. DART First State has several stops located near the courthouse.

During the construction, there will be no parking on Alico Road and no one may use Alico Road to drop off passengers at the courthouse. All drivers entering Alico Road will be required to enter the parking garage. Traffic on Alico Road and space limitations will prevent drivers from attempting to U-turn back onto North King Street.

“We understand this will be an inconvenience, but we ask for your patience during construction for the safety of everyone entering the courthouse,” said Deputy Court Administrator Jaime Dolan.

Construction closures will also affect pedestrians, as the sidewalks in front of and behind the Custom House will be closed during construction. Additional updates on traffic disruptions will be posted on the Delaware Judicial Branch [website](#) during the construction.



BY BETSY PRICE

Traffic flow will change around the Wilmington courthouse in September as work continues on the renovation and expansion of the Custom House next to the Leonard L. Williams Justice Center on King Street. Drivers and those needing to use the courthouse should be prepared for delays in the area. Among the changes:

- One lane of North King Street in front of the Custom House will be closed on or near Sept. 12.
- There will be periodic closures and narrowing of Alico Road, which leads to the courthouse parking garage.
- Part of Alico Road that loops behind the Custom House and back out to North King Street will be closed permanently, but that date is not yet determined.
- Sidewalks in front of and behind the Custom House will be closed during construction.



WILMINGTON COUNCILMAN, AG TO HOST CIVIC ASSOCIATION TRAINING

BY JAREK RUTZ

Wilmingtonians will have a chance to tune up their understanding of legal rights, responsibilities and processes essential for a healthy community next month. At-large Council Member James Spadola and Deputy Attorney General Chris Curtin will run the hour-and-a-half session Monday, Sept. 23 starting at 6 p.m.

“We are excited to offer this targeted training session to our community leaders,” Spadola said. “Our goal is to empower association leaders with the information they need to create well-managed, legally sound communities.”

On the workshop’s agenda:

- In-depth insights into the legal framework governing civic and homeowners associations.
- Participants will gain knowledge and tools necessary to effectively manage and lead their associations.

- End goal of ensuring attendees’ communities remain harmonious and compliant with the law.

Understanding the legal basis for and differences among community associations is important for association leaders, said Deputy Attorney General Chris Curtin.

“This workshop will provide practical information about the responsibilities and rights that come with ownership in and governance of community associations including condominiums, homeowner’s associations and voluntary civic associations,” he said.

The free event will be held at the Louis L. Redding City County Building at 800 North French Street in Wilmington. For more information or to register, email Spadola at jnspadola@wilmingtonde.gov.



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BY JAREK RUTZ

Delawareans have their first chance to skip the long lines and submit their early vote for the Sept. 10 primary elections Wednesday. Round one of early voting is from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. everyday through Saturday. Following Labor Day weekend, there's a second round of early voting from Tuesday, Sept. 3, through Sunday, Sept. 8. Voters can submit their ballots Tuesday, Sept. 3 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., and polls are open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. the rest of the week through Sunday.

EARLY VOTING CENTERS

New Castle County (6 locations)

- Appoquinimink State Service Center 122 Silver Lake Road, Middletown
- Christina Crossing 501 South Walnut Street, Suite 13, in Wilmington's ShopRite shopping center, directly next to WingStop
- Claymont Community Center, 3301 Green Street, Claymont

ROUND 1 OF EARLY VOTING FOR SEPT. 10 PRIMARY OPENED WEDNESDAY

- Department of Elections Warehouse, 220 Lisa Drive, New Castle
- Hudson State Service Center, 501 Ogletown Road, Newark
- Police Athletic League (PAL) 3707 North Market Street, Wilmington

Kent County (4 locations)

- BPOE #1903 Elks Lodge, 200 South Saulsbury Road in Dover
- Crossroad Christian Church: 4867 North Dupont Highway, Dover
- Frederica Senior Center 216 Market Street, Frederica
- Harrington Parks & Recreation 114 East Liberty Street, Harrington

Sussex County (8 locations)

- American Legion Post 28 Millsboro, 31768 Legion Road, Millsboro
- Department of Elections Warehouse Georgetown, 542 South Bedford Street, Georgetown
- Department of Elections Warehouse, 200 Allen Street, Seaford
- Ellendale Fire Hall, 302 Main Street, Ellendale
- Laurel Fire Hall, 205 West 10th Street, Laurel

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Education

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SCHOOL CLIMATE GROUP STRESSES ENGAGEMENT, FUNDING

BY JAREK RUTZ

As Delaware students head back to school, a state task force dedicated to keeping their environment positive had a major focus on family engagement and funding.

The 24-member **Student Behavior and School Climate Task Force**, made of government and educational officials as well as school behavioral specialists and resource officers, first heard a presentation from Kendall Massett, executive director of the **Delaware Charter School Network**. She said there's this belief that if only families are engaged, all behavioral problems would be fixed.

"But family engagement, family involvement, family support, looks different for every school, community, every family," she said. "Every educator in this room and on Zoom knows that we meet our students where they are, and so we do the same thing with our families, we meet our families where they are. We don't know what's going on in our family's home life and their work

life, what that dynamic looks like at home, so we can't just expect that family engagement is going to fix it all."

Relationship-building is the real key to a healthy school climate, she said. Eight of the state's 24 charter schools work with a group called **ParentCamp**, which helps build a family, community and school engagement model.

"They help facilitate those conversations, and actually leaders are not allowed, the school leaders are not allowed to lead the conversation," Massett said. "The teachers and educators in the room aren't allowed. It's led by parents."

Other charters, she said, support family life while helping students learn life skills. She cited First State Montessori Academy, and how they teach children to sweep floors, do dishes, take out the trash and other practical skills to help foster a sense of responsibility in the home and community.

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WILMU NEW CASTLE CLOSES WEDNESDAY DUE TO WATER MAIN BREAK

BY JAREK RUTZ

A water main break forced **Wilmington University's New Castle Campus** to close all of Wednesday. The New Castle Campus, located at 320 North Dupont Highway, is one of four university locations, along with ones in Brandywine, Dover and Georgetown.

The water main break was on Route 13 which impacted water service in the area. It broke Tuesday night and the campus was closed Tuesday evening.

The Student and Employee Carnival at WilmU has been postponed due to the campus closure, but the school hopes to reschedule it for this week and will alert the community as soon as possible.

George Reed Middle of Colonial School District is next to the campus, and a spokesperson for the district said there was low water pressure towards the end of Tuesday.

WilmU issued a statement that work is in progress to restore the water service and an update will be provided by noon. The statement asked that students check their Canvas course for information and activities, and said that all other university locations are open with classes meeting on schedule.



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Sports

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BIG PLAYS IGNITE COMEBACK WIN FOR LAKE FOREST

BY GLENN FRAZER

Two big plays in the second half were the difference as Lake Forest won its season opener over Odessa 18-14. The first was a 71-yard run up the middle by senior full-back Ayden Young in the third quarter to pull the Spartans within two points. The winning touchdown came with 4:54 to go in the game when Jackson Parson found Ne'Von Pierce open in the middle of the field for 49 yards and the score.

The home team Odessa Ducks scored on their first possession of the night. Following a wind-aided punt, the Ducks began the drive at the Lake 18-yard line. Five plays later, Chase Belin scored from a yard out and Jackson Matyger booted the extra point for a 7-0 lead.

The Spartans put together an impressive drive that

led to a four-yard touchdown run by Young, but the conversion failed leaving Odessa ahead 7-6 with 6:30 left in the half. On the ensuing kickoff, Odessa took over at the Lake 41 after a “botched” attempt by the Spartans. That led to a nine-play drive that began with seven consecutive running plays by Belin and Isaiah Melton. Then the Ducks went to “the air” on the next two plays. Junior QB M-J Kusman threw a perfect pass to Elijah Starkey in traffic to the one. The Ducks quickly went without a huddle and Kusman passed to Kasai Truitt for the score with just over a minute to go. Matyger’s kick sent Odessa into the locker room up 14-6.

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