

# TOWN SQUARE LIVE

*Photo credit: Wintenthur Museum, Garden & Library*

 Town Square LIVE

 @TownSquareLive

**SUBSCRIBE**



*March 31, 2022*  
*Vol. 3, Issue 13*



# Contents

Photo by Scott Evers

<b>COMMUNITY .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>BUSINESS .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>FOOD &amp; DINING.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>GOVERNMENT.....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>EDUCATION .....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>HEALTH.....</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>SPORTS.....</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>STAY CONNECTED .....</b>	<b>30</b>



**SCIENCE OLYMPIAD BACK INDOORS**



**FUJIFILM TO SPEND MORE IN NEW CASTLE**



**WILMINGTON FRIENDS GIRLS' SOCCER OVER SANFORD**

*Photo credit: Longwood Gardens*



*Community*

**TOWN SQUARE LIVE**

# LONGWOOD GARDENS BEGINS TO BLOOM FOR SPRING

BY BETSY PRICE

Longwood Gardens' daffodils, tulips, azaleas, wisteria and more have begun springing to life just in time for its annual month-long "Spring Blooms" display that begins Saturday. Peak bloom is expected in mid-April, weather permitting.

While fans of more spring flowers will find something to ooh and ahh about, the piece de resistance is always its historic 600-foot long Flower Garden Walk with more than 200,000 tulips and other seasonal blooms. It's best at peak bloom.

But flowers, flowers are everywhere on the Kennett Square property's 1,100 acres as "Spring Blooms" run April 2 to May 1. Flowering magnolias, cherry blossoms and

dogwoods can be spotted outdoors. Inside forsythia, hyacinths, narcissus, tulips, delphinium and foxgloves fill the Conservatory with fragrance and color.

The East Conservatory entrance features cherry blossoms, crabapples and an unusual gold foliated tulip poplar. Scarlet-red blossoms of Begonia 'Canary Wing' are displayed in mass adding a pop of color, while the Main Conservatory features hydrangea baskets, Phalaenopsis orchid baskets, fragrant lilies, and vibrant azaleas.

In the Idea Garden, beds of tulips and spring annuals are juxtaposed against cool-season vegetables and herbs starting to emerge.

The Meadow Garden will feature Carolina silverbells, Eastern redbuds, flowering dogwoods and sweet azaleas springing into beauty.

The Gardens are open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day except Tuesdays. Admission is \$25 for adults; \$22 for seniors (age 62+); \$13 for youth (ages 5-18) and free ages 4 and under. For more details, go to [www.longwood-gardens.org](http://www.longwood-gardens.org).





# SCIENCE OLYMPIAD CONSTRUCTION COMPETITION MOVES BACK INDOORS

BY BETSY PRICE

As Chase Martinez filled a bucket hanging from his balsa wood bridge with sand, the structure began making ominous popping sounds and he shoveled faster. “I thought it was going to crack,” he said.

But, when time was called in the bridges event at the Delaware Science Olympiad Saturday, the bridge hadn’t collapsed before the six-minute deadline. “That’s the first one I’ve had today that didn’t crack,” proctor Win Bookhart told Chase and his partner Joseph Mlodak.

The sixth- and seventh-graders from St. Mary Magdalene School were two of the 250 students from around Delaware taking part of the 2022 Science Olympiad construction competitions at Cab Calloway School of

the Arts. It was the first time since 2019 that the construction events could be moved indoors.

Held for years at Delaware State University in Dover, Science Olympiad was canceled in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2021, the construction events were held outdoors where wind and the rough surface of parking lots challenged the builders.

This year, the knowledge tests were taken online and the construction events such as bridges, mousetrap vehicles, storm the castle, the Wright stuff, solar power, sounds of music, it’s about time and ping pong parachute were moved indoors.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

**FUR BABY**  
PET RESORT

PAMPER YOUR  
**FUR BABY**

Doggie Daycare.  
Overnight Hotel.  
Specialty Boutique.  
Spa Grooming.

FEATURING **SAFE & FUN, CAGE-FREE** DAYCARE & HOTEL

NATURAL GROCERY TO SPA PAMPERING

**AWARD WINNING** PET RESORT

DelawareToday

**302.725.5078**  
 [woof@furbabyboutique.com](mailto:woof@furbabyboutique.com)

MAKE ONLINE RESERVATIONS TODAY!  
 [www.furbabypetresort.com](http://www.furbabypetresort.com)

FOLLOW ALONG  
 [@furbabypetresort](https://www.instagram.com/furbabypetresort)



# TAKE BREAK FROM TWEETING TO HELP DELAWARE COUNT BIRDS

BY BETSY PRICE

A state project aimed at finding as many different bird species as possible in two Delaware parks is asking for help from citizen scientists.

The Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve wants people visiting Blackbird Creek and the St. Jones reserves to take photos of birds and upload them so they can be counted.

The year-long project will help create a snapshot of which birds visit the lands within the estuaries and will help guide conservation plans, land stewardship and restoration efforts.

The bald eagle, red-shouldered hawk, clapper rail and tree swallows are among the birds that have been spotted by volunteers so far this year.

The state research reserve, which includes Blackbird Creek and St. Jones, is one of 30 in the country.

The Big Year initiative took its cut from birdwatchers, who often will challenge themselves to see or hear as many birds or bird species as possible within a single year. Those who participate don't have to be avid birdwatchers, but must [register](#) to participate in the citizen science project. Once registered, they can log observations into one of two apps, [iNaturalist](#) or [eBird](#). Those interested can join any time.

There are, of course, rules:

- Birds must have been within the reserves and seen during 2022.

- Birds must have been alive, wild and unrestrained when observed.
- Diagnostic characteristics, sufficient for the recorder to identify it by species, must have been seen and/or heard and/or documented for the bird observation.
- The bird must have been observed under conditions that conform to the [American Birding Association Code of Birding Ethics](#). In short, don't lie or cheat by bringing the bird with you.
- Volunteers must remain in publicly accessible areas within the reserves and may not enter private properties.

Citizen scientists should be aware that hunting seasons begin in September. In short, a birdwatcher dispatched to the great aviary in the sky by a load of buckshot will no longer be able to participate.

“Citizen science projects like our Big Year and Chronolog are ways that visitors to the reserve can help with ongoing research,” said Laurel Sullivan, education coordinator for research reserve.

Chronolog stations set up at Blackbird Creek and St. Jones allow visitors to take a photo with their smartphone and upload it into a database. The photos will be used to create a timelapse project to help observe and document environmental changes.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)



# 'STUFF THE BUS' SPRING FOOD DRIVE STARTS APRIL 4

BY BETSY PRICE

DART's holiday "Stuff the Bus" food drives have been so successful that the transportation agency will have its third spring version starting April 4.

All food donated at drop-offs in front of the two Safeway and ShopRite stores will be donated to the Food Bank of Delaware for distribution to those in need.

The drive comes as a flood of holiday donations has eased and helps keep the Food Bank stocked with non-perishable food.

Among the items the Food Bank seeks are cereals such as Cornflakes, Cheerios and Raisin Bran; white or brown rice; spaghetti sauce; pasta; peanut butter; canned tuna (in water); canned salmon; canned chicken; 100% fruit and vegetable juices; corn muffin mix; canned

beans; dry beans; soups; stews; canned vegetables; canned fruit; and granola bars.

The pickup spots will be:

- Monday, April 4: Safeway in Rehoboth, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 5: Safeway in Dover, 9 a.m.–4p.m.
- Wednesday, April 6: ShopRite of First State Plaza, 1600 W. Newport Pike, Wilmington, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.
- Thursday, April 7: ShopRite of Brandywine Commons, 1300 Rocky Run Parkway, Wilmington 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

For more information, go to [www.DartFirstState.com](http://www.DartFirstState.com).



# Cancer isn't waiting for COVID-19 to be over.

One in three Delawareans will get cancer. Unfortunately, many have put off their cancer screenings in the past year. Screenings detect cancer early, when it's most treatable. If you've skipped or canceled a screening due to the pandemic – for breast, cervical, colon, lung, or prostate cancer – don't wait one more day. **Call your health care provider to schedule your cancer screenings today.**

If you don't have a provider, we can help. If you are uninsured or underinsured, you may be eligible for free screenings. To learn more about eligibility requirements and recommended cancer screenings, and other information, please visit [HealthyDelaware.org/Cancer](http://HealthyDelaware.org/Cancer).

**To schedule your cancer screening by phone:**

Call your health care provider, dial 2-1-1, or speak directly with a nurse navigator at the health system nearest you, below.

- ChristianaCare: 302-216-3557
- Bayhealth: 302-216-8328
- Beebe Healthcare: 302-291-4380



*Photo by Christina Monillo from Pexels*

*Business*

**TOWN SQUARE LIVE**





# FUJIFILM TO SPEND ANOTHER \$28 MILLION ON PRODUCTION SITE

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Japanese multinational conglomerate Fujifilm will spend \$28 million to expand its production facility in New Castle. According to the company, the investment will double Fujifilm’s production capacity of pigment dispersions in the United States to meet the fast-growing demand for inkjet printing globally.

Construction of the new facility, which adds 11,000 square feet of operational space, began this month and is expected to be operational by summer 2023.

Last year, the company announced the construction of its first dispersion manufacturing facility in the United States, also in New Castle. That facility is nearing completion and is on schedule to be commissioned by spring 2022.

The \$28 million announced Monday brings Fujifilm’s total investment to \$47 million in new production

capacity at the New Castle site. To support the increase in manufacturing output, Fujifilm will add 30 positions in quality, engineering, production, and administrative roles by the end of 2023.

“Further expanding our manufacturing capacity for pigment dispersions at our Delaware site will enable us to supply aqueous dispersions and inks to our Americas customers more efficiently,” said Melissa Toledo, general manager, Delaware, FUJIFILM Imaging Colorants, Inc. “In addition to expanding operations, we look forward to growing our team here with 30 new positions to support our RxD manufacturing with roles in production, engineering and administrative support.”




**St. Elizabeth School**  
BENEDICTINE Spirit VIKING Pride

Join us for our Fall Admissions Events!

**HIGH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE**  
Sunday, October 18, 2021  
10:00am - 1:00pm

**VIKING FOR A DAY**  
You are invited to feel the energy of VKNation as a Viking for a Day. Viking Visits begin October 4th.

**HIGH SCHOOL PLACEMENT TEST**  
November 13, 2021 8:30am  
November 14 12:00pm

St. E REGISTER TODAY! Visit [www.steschools.org/admissions](http://www.steschools.org/admissions) or call 302.656.3369 x 3039

*Photo by Jonathan Borba for Pexels*



*Food & Dining*

**TOWN SQUARE LIVE**



# THESE SPOTS WILL ALLOW YOU TO SAVOR SPRING WHEN DINING OUT



BY PAM GEORGE

Restaurants are gearing up for a busy spring season—Easter, Mother’s Day and grads-and-dads events are on the horizon. Menus are now full of seasonal flavor—think ramps, asparagus, fiddlehead ferns—and as the calendar flips to April, dining outside no longer requires a heat lamp, for the most part.

Working north to south, here are some spots for spring dining.

### 1906 and The Café

Here’s a no-brainer: The two best-known places to eat at [Longwood Gardens](#) will also offer the “Spring Blooms” exhibit running from April 2 to May 1. The full-service restaurant, [1906](#), is named for the year that Pierre S. du

Pont purchased the grounds.

The dining room, dressed in soothing shades of verdant green, is tucked into the trees, and an adjoining deck makes diners feel like they’re sipping wine in the woods.

[The Café](#) has an a la carte menu with sandwiches, salads and, of course, mushroom soup. Load up a tray and pay at the register. There is an outdoor patio for alfresco dining.

### The Pavilion Café

The visitor center dining spot at [Winterthur Museum & Gardens](#) offers visitors a peek at some of the 1,000 acres of meadows, lawns, woods and water features on

offer at the former du Pont home. Founder Henry F. du Pont himself chose where a lot of the flowering plants were placed and the cascade of daffodils and azaleas still stun guests. Dine in or purchase a grab-and-go sandwich for your spring walk.

### Main Street, Newark

College towns are buzzing as the semester comes to a close, and you can watch the students catch spring fever from several outdoor patios.

[Caffe Gelato](#), [Home Grown Café](#) and [Klondike Kate’s](#) are just a few restaurants with outdoor dining. New to the strip is [Hamilton’s on Main](#), which offers outdoor dining out front, elevated above the sidewalk.

### Lewes During the Tulip Festival

The 13th Annual Tulip Festival celebrating Lewes’ Dutch heritage is April 1-17. If nature cooperates, it’s an excellent time to take a walking tour, buy plants and dine.

For views of the canal, consider [Harbour](#), [Wheelhouse](#) or [Irish Eyes Restaurant & Pub](#). For a bay vista, ask for an outdoor table at [Grain on the Rocks](#) at the Lewes ferry terminal.

### Heirloom

The award-winning Lewes restaurant’s patio might be open in the next few weeks. No matter. Owner Meghan Lee decorates the mantle and fireplace to reflect seasons.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

*Photo from Getty Images*



*Government*

**TOWN SQUARE LIVE**

# LAWMAKERS WORK TO ENSURE LOW-INCOME, DISABLED GET RELIEF CHECKS

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

When Bridgeville resident Debra Dawson learned that Delaware lawmakers had announced a plan to give every Delawarean \$300 in direct financial relief, she was elated. Dawson, 61, relies entirely on Social Security Disability Insurance to live.

She worked since she was 16 and paid into the system for decades. In 2012, a series of debilitating health events forced Dawson into disability. Every month, a meager amount of money is loaded onto a government-issued debit card. She lives with her dad, who has cancer. She gives him a small rent payment, pays her bills and buys her medications. She's left with about \$8 in any given month.

That's why she was so disappointed when she learned of the state's plan to only give the relief payment to people who filed taxes in 2020. Her income is so small that she isn't required to file taxes. That \$300 direct relief pay-

ment, she said, represents an opportunity for a little bit of breathing room. "It would make all the difference in the world," she said.

As more and more stories like Dawson's have surfaced during the last week, lawmakers say they are working out a way to ensure that Delawareans who don't file taxes, such as those on disability insurance, are able to get the \$300.

"The issue of the rebate potentially missing some of the Delawareans who most need it is being examined," said Joe Fulgham, communications director for the House Republican Caucus. "We anticipate that this is a shortfall that is likely to be addressed in some fashion."

Fulgham said using a taxpayer database and an existing protocol for returning money to Delawareans is an "efficient, but imperfect, solution." The state's database includes roughly 600,000 tax filers.

"We were aware of this gap and are committed to ensuring that no Delawarean is left out, especially those most in need," said House Majority Leader Valerie Longhurst. The finer details of the bill are still being worked out, she said, and lawmakers weren't in a position to announce that on March 24 when the plan was revealed. But, she said, it's a "top priority" for lawmakers.

For Dawson, that means she'll be able to afford a full prescription this month.

"I currently have \$8 and some change on my account, and that was to get me through the two last weeks of the month," Dawson said. "Even if they gave me \$100, I would be over the moon because that means that I could get my prescription which is \$140 for 30 tablets and I take two a day."

She might even try to go out to lunch with friends. Dawson hasn't left her house since December. She doesn't have a car, and for health reasons, she's not able to drive. She doesn't spend money on fancy meals or clothes or entertainment—though she acknowledged that some Social Security recipients aren't as responsible as her.

The idea, she said, that this direct relief payment could go to the 25,000 Delaware residents who are **millionaires**—but not to her—"speaks to a larger issue."

"That's nothing to them, the \$300," Dawson said. "And to the people in my position, it makes a great deal of a difference, so I think legislators need to put more thought and give much more consideration to how this money is distributed."

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)



# LAWMAKERS ANNOUNCE PLAN TO GIVE EVERY DELAWARE TAXPAYER \$300

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Republican and Democratic lawmakers on March 24 announced a plan to give every Delaware taxpayer \$300 in direct economic relief.

The relief plan, which would send direct payments to every Delawarean who filed a 2020 tax return, has the backing of Gov. John Carney.

Legislation is currently being drafted to enable relief payments. A bill is expected to be introduced during the upcoming session break and considered when the General Assembly returns in April.

“Like most of the country, Delaware has weathered a difficult storm during the pandemic,” said House Majority Leader Valerie Longhurst. “Our economic recovery has been strong in many ways, but it has also slammed residents with new challenges of increasing costs in almost every facet of their life. Delawareans emerging from the pandemic are facing higher prices at the grocery store, at the gas pump, and for many of the goods and services they rely on every day.”

Longhurst said both parties in the legislature recognize that economic issues like inflation are nonpartisan in that every Delawarean is affected by the negative impacts of rising costs.

“Fortunately, the state has been blessed with a record surplus that has allowed us to make numerous investments in our infrastructure and environment,” she said. “Now, we have the opportunity to invest in our residents and provide direct relief to every taxpayer in the state. These rebates are one way we can help offset residents’ recent hardships and ease the burden many are facing.”

Senate President Pro Tempore Dave Sokola said the move to give every Delawarean \$300 is an example of lawmakers “putting aside political differences.”

“These direct payments will help stimulate our economy, help families pay their bills and provide much-needed relief to a workforce that labored through one of the most difficult moments in our nation’s history,” Sokola said. “This legislation is more than good public policy. It’s the right thing to do.”

Economists project Delaware’s fiscal year 2023 budget to see a surplus of nearly \$1 billion. Lawmakers said that direct cash relief is the best way to help Delawareans address economic hardships.

“My hope is these direct payments will provide some measure of relief for Delaware families who are dealing with higher costs at the grocery store and the gas pump,”

Gov. Carney said. “Every taxpayer I’ve ever talked to expects us to manage their money in a way that’s responsible and sustainable over the long term. These direct payments to Delaware families are part of a broader, responsible budget proposal that will invest in education, our economy, and Delaware communities, and increase our reserves to prepare our state for the future.”

Republican House Minority Leader Danny Short said the state has prudently set surplus funds aside in reserves.

“Hopefully, this rebate will not be treated as a final solution, but rather as a good start towards balancing the state’s needs with those of our citizens,” he said.

As gas prices continue to climb, some lawmakers have considered a gas tax holiday.

According to lawmakers, tax revenue from the gas tax is pledged to bonds in the Transportation Trust Fund making a holiday difficult because the state would be in immediate default of its bond agreements.

Further, there is no guarantee that the entire savings would be passed onto the consumer, nor would a gas tax holiday help lower-income residents who rely on public transportation.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)



# SMITH, KOWALKO BOTH DRAFT BILLS TO CREATE INSPECTOR GENERAL

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Two bills set to be filed in the General Assembly would create an inspector general’s office in Delaware to investigate claims of waste, fraud, abuse and corruption within state government.

Rep. Mike Smith, R-Pike Creek, said while Delaware already has a state auditor and attorney general, the inspector general’s office would “fill a gap in their coverage.”

“The inspector general would work collaboratively with these agencies to provide more comprehensive accountability and serve as a point of contact where citizens could bring their concerns about government operations,” Smith said.

Smith is working now to gather co-sponsors and hopes to file the bill before the General Assembly reconvenes on April 5.

Rep. John Kowalko, D-Newark, has been working on a similar bill since Nov. 2021. Kowalko told Town Square LIVE News that he still plans to file his bill.

“I wasn’t aware of Rep. Smith’s bill until recently but I will say that there’s a lot that’s good in there,” Kowalko said. “And there are other things where if we do end up combining the bills in some way, I’d want to have a sit-down and talk about it.”

Under Smith’s bill, the duties of the new office would include the following:

- Receive and investigate allegations of fraud, waste, abuse, or corruption involving any state department, division, board, authority, bureau, commission or council in state government.
- Create remedial action plans to prevent recurrences of fraud, waste, abuse and corruption in agencies where these conditions have occurred.
- Protect those making good-faith reports of wrongdoing from possible retaliation.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

## Celebrating 68 Years of Transforming Lives Through Learning



**JOIN US!**  
**March 26 & 27**  
Practice High School Placement Test for 7th Graders

[REGISTER NOW](#)

# Padua

ACADEMY



## ANTI-RIOT BILLS DIE IN COMMITTEE

Section 1302 of the Delaware Criminal Code defines rioting as a class F felony. A person is guilty of riot when the person participates with two or more persons in a course of disorderly conduct:

- With intent to commit or facilitate the commission of a felony or misdemeanor; or
- With intent to prevent or coerce official action; or
- When the accused or any other participant to the knowledge of the accused uses or plans to use a firearm or other deadly weapon.

A.J. Roop, a state prosecutor with the Delaware Department of Justice, said the bills would make it more difficult to prosecute crimes committed during riots.

“That would add an element to what we’d actually have to pursue under a riot prosecution because you only need two or more people under riot and they have to be engaged in disorderly conduct,” Roop said. “Disorderly conduct is a pretty broad statute. The behavior that you’re looking to cover with riotous burning and some of the other proposed bills would be covered by that.”

Lawson said his bills were designed not to make it more difficult to prosecute rioting or disorderly conduct charges but to add another element that prosecutors could pursue in addition to those charges. “My idea was to bring it narrowly focused so... people could understand that if you riot, there are specific charges that will be brought against you and specific punishment for those,” Lawson said.

Mike Brickner, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Delaware, said did not support the release of Lawson’s bills.

“It’s a duplicative set of laws,” Brickner said in an interview with Delaware/Town Square LIVE News. “If someone is engaged in property destruction or stealing something or some sort of other action that’s not protected by the First Amendment, there are already plenty of tools in the toolbox for law enforcement to use to arrest or ticket or charge that individual, and we don’t need something else that’s going to add to that.”

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

### BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

A package of bills aimed at creating specific crimes for destructive and dangerous conduct during violent riots will not move forward in the legislative process.

Senate Bills 220, 221 and 223 would have created the crimes of looting, riotous burning and destruction of a public monument. Senate Bill 219 would have made it illegal to manufacture, transfer, possess or use Molotov cocktails. The bills were not voted out of the Senate Judiciary Committee after they were considered March 23. The Judiciary Committee is composed of three Democrats and two Republicans.

The bills’ sponsor, Sen. Dave Lawson, R-Harrington, said he introduced the legislation to give courts, law enforcement and prosecutors additional tools to deal with destructive and dangerous conduct during times of civil unrest.

“The right of citizens to peacefully protest is protected by the First Amendment,” Lawson told the committee. “Protests that turn violent are called riots—there’s no protection for those.” Under Delaware Criminal Code, there are no specific criminal charges that apply to the type of crimes detailed under Lawson’s bills. “That’s why it’s so important to have these four pieces of legislation introduced,” he said.

*Photo by Keina Burton for Pexels*

*Education*

**TOWN SQUARE LIVE**





# NATIONAL CAMPAIGN CAPS EXCELLENCE IN MATH TOUR AT SPRINGER

BY JAREK RUTZ

Four Springer Middle School teachers told visitors Wednesday that they were all opposed to a new curriculum designed to increase math scores.

Now they love it, the teachers told members of the **Knowledge Matters Campaign**, there to congratulate the school for its successes. “The curriculum we use forces teachers to really listen to the kids,” said Trish Mexiell, a math teacher at Springer.

Sometimes, kids just need to have something explained by other kids, said Laura Carlson, a Springer math teacher.

Representatives from Knowledge Matters interviewed the four teachers as part of their visit. The school and the Brandywine District now use “Kendall Hunt’s Illustrative Mathematics 6-8 Math,” published in 2019.

While the COVID-19 pandemic has made it hard to compare apples-to-apples in student testing scores, the teachers said the high-quality materials they were using helped elevate student involvement in their own learning.

Teachers went through hundreds of hours to understand the new curriculum and be able to teach it effectively.

Brandywine’s efforts to put students at the forefront of discussions, ideas and collaborations has resulted in more student engagement and a lively environment in the classroom, the teachers said.

Carlson breaks her classes up into groups of three—the groups alternate every day. She then has each group of students complete problems on whiteboards around the room, as she circles the room to assist.

The students in her classroom are constantly chatting with one another, Carlson said, and are having fun while doing math. “They can’t wait to get into their groups and start working,” she said. Because their working partners are different each day, students who aren’t as proficient can benefit from those who are.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)



CALL FOR RESERVATIONS  
**302-265-2652**

FIND US ON FACEBOOK  
**@BenvenutoMilford**

*Mention Delaware LIVE & receive 1/2 off dessert*

**URSULINE ACADEMY**

**REGISTER TO ATTEND A FALL OPEN HOUSE!**

Upper School | October 3  
Lower & Middle | November 11

Flowers need  
time to bloom.  
So do you ♡

Quando comen  
e p

## CHRISTINA TO PILOT SPANISH IMMERSION PROGRAM AT OBERLE

MUITA PRESSA LEMBR

BY JAREK RUTZ

School announcements in Oberle Elementary School will soon be broadcast in both Spanish and English. That will be one of the outcomes of Christina School District's new **Dual Language Immersion Program** at Oberle in the fall.

The program will start with kindergarteners next year and grow one grade level each year until it's kindergarten through fifth grade in fall 2028. Applications are now open for the 44 spots in the classrooms.

Modeled on a two-way Spanish immersion, both languages will be taught throughout the school day. To start, there will be a Spanish classroom of around 22 students and an English classroom of the same number. The classes will swap languages during the day, with half a student's day in each language.

Only announced four days ago, Assistant Principal Ann Hlabangana-Clay said there have already been a number of applicants as well as parents coming to the school to learn more and to register their children.

If interest demands more classrooms, Oberle's building could expand to a second or third pair of English and Spanish classrooms, said Norman Kennedy, the district's director of elementary teaching and learning.

The elementary school is located in Bear, where **22.1%** of the population is Hispanic. At Oberle, **47.8%** of students identify as Latino.

Kennedy said the initial goal is to have 50% of those chosen for the program to be Spanish-speaking and the other 50% to be English-speaking. In a 50-50 split, he said, students will greatly benefit from one another while

socializing and collaborating in the classroom and around the school.

There already are several faculty members who are bilingual, said Ann Hlabangana-Clay. Teachers who can speak Spanish will be pulled from around the district as "volunteer transfers" if additional faculty is needed.

Those who fill the Spanish teacher positions will need an elementary certification, and either a world language or a kindergarten through 12th grade bilingual certificate.

When students move to middle school, around 30% of their day will consist of Spanish learning. In high school, they will be taking AP level Spanish classes that will count toward collegiate credit and language certification.

Cheri Goetcheus, Oberle's principal, said children will be able to look around the school and see posters, textbooks, quotes and people who look like them and share a common culture.

Studies have shown that dual language immersion is beneficial for all learners, closing academic gaps, increasing brain power and developing empathy, the district says on its website. Students who don't speak English or Spanish are encouraged to apply to the program. The best time to learn a second language is before 18, studies say. For a person to be as proficient in a language as a native speaker, they should be learning the language before they are 10. After that, it's cognitively more challenging.

This isn't the only immersion program in the Christina district.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)



## FULL-TIME SUBSTITUTE TEACHER BILL COULD ADD 208 PERMANENT SUBS

BY JAREK RUTZ

Delaware schools are one step closer to being able to hire permanent substitute teachers.

**House Bill 315**, which would provide funding for schools to hire substitute teachers as full-time employees, has been released with bipartisan support by the House Education Committee.

Dozens of subs are needed each day across the state. The **issue** became critical in December and January when the Omicron variant was spreading and teachers were exposed at home or at work, were sick themselves, or needed to take care of a sick family member.

“It got so bad that in some cases, the superintendent filled these open substitute positions,” said Rep. Debra Heffernan, D-Bellefonte, the bill’s sponsor.

Rep. Ruth Briggs King, R-Georgetown, a bill cosponsor, said that the state has had a substitute shortage

problem for years, and the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the problem. Briggs King said districts often must call teachers at the last minute in the early hours of the morning, with some subs living at the opposite end of the state. Because of the shortage, a few schools across the state had to close for a day when the Omicron rampage was at its worst.

HB 315 would create about 208 permanent substitutes who would start in time for the 2023-24 school year. Schools would qualify for one permanent sub if they have at least 30 full-time classroom teachers already, and two if they have 55 or more full-time teachers. The permanent subs would fill in for any middle and high school classroom teachers, as well as high-need elementary schools.

Heffernan worked with the Department of Education

and the Delaware State Education Association to draft the bill.

With the substitutes serving as full-time faculty, they will get to know the school climate, and the structural and cultural aspects that make up the building, said Briggs King. If no teachers call out on a particular day, the full-time subs will still be busy, assisting teachers in classrooms.

Heffernan called the likelihood of a school not needing a sub on a given day “extremely rare.” She said that it’s often hard to lure subs in with the current pay schedule and lack of benefits.

In Delaware, substitutes who hold or are eligible to hold an educator license are ranked as Class A and paid \$124 a day, before taxes. Class B subs, making \$99 a day, have a bachelor’s degree or are currently enrolled in school for teaching. Those without a bachelor’s degree, who sub for paraprofessionals, are designated Class C and make \$79 a day. In an eight-hour work day, subs’ hourly wages range from \$9.88 to \$15.50. Unless they are hired as long-term subs, they have no guarantee of day-to-day work.

The salary for the new subs created by HB 315 would be in the ballpark of \$35,000, said Heffernan. That is on par with pay for starting employees with a bachelor’s degree and no certification, she said.

Including salaries and benefits, the cost of each full-time substitute will be about \$71,000 a year. The pay would be split by the state and the districts.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

# BRANDYWINE'S TECH TRIAD WORKING TO MODERNIZE CLASSROOMS

BY JAREK RUTZ

Teachers in the Brandywine School District are one step closer to being about to throw away notebooks, pencils and erasers. Brandywine School District is making a determined effort to modernize the classroom, with devices for teachers like interactive smart boards, Chromebooks and iPads.

Ultimately, the district believes student test scores will improve with instructor access to the new tools, said Michelle Kutch, director of curriculum and instruction at Brandywine.

To roll out the technology in a way that enables everybody to best use it, the district created a technology triad focusing on facilities, technology and instruction. It will govern the process in which technology is ordered, installed and programmed, including training materials as well as instruction for faculty and staff.

What fell into each category was determined by teacher

and student feedback, as well as what instructional practices the district prioritized, said Bonnie Yurkanin, coordinator of instructional technology at Brandywine.

Tier one represents what is most necessary, and should ideally be in every classroom, such as interactive smart boards, a second computer monitor and Chromebooks.

Tiers two and three are technologies that are vital later on in the process, including document cameras, webcams and microphones—these complement the items in the first tier.

The tiers are also divided into columns of “must have” and “optional.” Those listed as “optional” include headsets, GoPros and sound systems—these serve to complement and enhance the experience that the “must have” technologies bring.

The COVID-19 pandemic added momentum to the district’s overall effort to update technology, said Yurk-

anin. “We went from a few devices in the classroom to a one-to-one model where every student in the school district now has a Chromebook,” she said. The new tech will help teachers take advantage of the Chromebooks, as well as keep students more engaged, Kutch said.

While the tech program is part of Brandywine’s strategic plan, it has no deadline for full implementation, and not every district building is being outfitted at the same pace, said Yurkanin. The building administrators decide what technological purchases they will make for their building, and several schools have already achieved the “tier one classroom,” Yurkanin said.

Money from Brandywine’s share of Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Funds, financed the technology purchases. That federal program is designed to help schools cope with the fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The latest of three rounds of ESSER funding allocated \$24.9 million to Brandywine. ESSER I distributed \$2.6 million and ESSER II gave \$11.1 million to the district. In total, the district received roughly \$40 million in funding, and most of it is being used to buy the new technology.

This first year of the program is focusing on making sure teachers are comfortable with their new tools. Its two tech coaches include one each for elementary and secondary teachers.

“With any new technology that is placed into a teacher’s classroom, there needs to be high quality, professional development to follow it,” Yurkanin said, “so that the teachers feel fully supported in using that technology.”

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

# CHARTER MORATORIUM BILL RELEASED AFTER HEAVY DEBATE

BY JAREK RUTZ

After a contentious hearing, a bill that would put a moratorium on both the creation and expansion of charter schools in New Castle County was released by the House Education Committee March 23.

The final vote on [House Bill 353](#) was nine in favor and seven against. All who voted in favor are Democrats, all against are Republicans.

In a nearly three-hour hearing loaded with public comment, the arguments for and against the New Castle County charter moratorium were consistent.

So many people wanted to comment that Rep. Kimberly Williams, D-Newark, asked anyone who routinely commented on legislation to allow others who didn't to speak first because of time constraints.

Rep. Madinah Wilson-Anton, D-Bear, sponsor of the bill, is also a graduate of Wilmington Charter School. She said the bill is in no way “anti-charter.”

Wilson-Anton said the 27-year-old charter school law leaves questions for many residents about their impact and the equity of our state’s education system.

The opposition declared the bill an infringement on families’ right to school choice and said it was unnecessary. They also said the legislation was bypassing the real issues that need to be addressed through reforming the state school system, not by limiting options.

Daisy Morales, a parent of a child at Las Americas Aspira Academy, said the bill harms the community by not allowing for excellent school options.



**TOWER HILL SCHOOL**  
SCHEDULE A VISIT OR VIRTUAL TOUR >>

“The bill takes away educational choice and keeps children trapped in failing schools,” she said.

Those in favor of the bill said that a brief pause on charters is necessary while the state strives to make schools across Wilmington more equitable through such things as the Wilmington Learning Collaborative and recent funding for additional help for younger and disadvantaged students.

Not a single comment from members of the public or educators supported the bill. All of that came from legislators. Legislators seeking to pause charter schools also cited the need for a more meticulous process in approving charter school applications.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

*Photo by Mary Taylor from Pexels*



*Health*

**TOWN SQUARE LIVE**

# DROP IN COVID-19 CASES, FEDERAL MONEY MEANS CHANGES IN DELAWARE

BY BETSY PRICE

As the number of new COVID-19 cases continues to decline in Delaware, the state is shifting its weekly stats update to monthly. The next one will come out April 22.

The March 25 announcement also said the federal program that reimbursed providers for testing and vaccinating uninsured people will stop at 11:59 p.m. April 5. That means some providers may stop providing those services for the uninsured.

But the state Division of Public Health stressed in a press release that free testing and vaccinations are still available at Public Health clinics. Testing site locations can be found at [de.gov/gettested](https://de.gov/gettested) and vaccination sites at [de.gov/getmyvaccine](https://de.gov/getmyvaccine).

The state also announced it will close four standing vaccine sites set up to accommodate large numbers of individuals who wanted to get a COVID-19 vaccine. Vaccines will still be available at Public Health clinics.

After March 31, they will no longer be available at the Blue Hen Corporate Center in Dover; Georgetown in Georgetown; Canby Park in Wilmington; or University Plaza in Newark.

Testing being done at those sites by Curative also is in the process of moving to other locations.

As of March 24, Delaware's numbers said:

- The state has seen 259,185 positive cases since March 11, 2020
- The 7-day average of new positive cases is 63, down 0.1 from last week and down thousands from January.
- The 7-day average for the percentage of total positive tests is 3.2%, down 0.3 percentage points from last week.
- Hospitalizations fell to 35, down of 11 from last week, with only two people considered critically ill, down three from last week.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)



**Garrett B. Lyons** D.D.S., P.A.  
 Cosmetic & Family Dentistry  
*Where extra is ordinary*  
 Montchanin, DE • 302.654.1765

DBCC'S **GREATSTUFF**

SAVVY RESALE  Home



Shop  
Donate  
[Learn More >](#)

# HOUSE OKS BILL ALLOWING PAS TO PRESCRIBE ABORTION MEDICATION

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

The Delaware House of Representatives on March 24 passed a bill to allow physician assistants and advanced practice registered nurses to prescribe abortion medications in Delaware. **House Bill 320** passed along party lines.

Under federal regulations, physician assistants and advanced practice registered nurses are authorized to prescribe Mifepristone, Misoprostol, or Mifeprex for use within 10 weeks of pregnancy.

Health care providers wishing to prescribe the medication must complete a prescriber agreement before ordering and dispensing the medication.

Rep. Ruth Briggs King, R-Georgetown, asked whether the bill would permit health care providers in school wellness centers to prescribe the medication to minor students.

According to the bill’s sponsor, Rep. Debra Heffernan, D-Bellefonte, it would not. Additional legislation would be required for that.

“These procedures are not part of the school wellness center practice and so it would not,” Heffernan said. “There’s no potential to increase that at this time.”

Briggs King sought to clarify that such a decision would not be left up to individual school boards to decide.

“This legislation only [seeks] to add qualified APRNs and PAs to the ability to prescribe this medication,” Heffernan said. “They can prescribe almost all other medications.”

The bill will now advance to a Senate committee for consideration.



## Join Our Team

At Kenny Family ShopRites of Delaware, we’re a team.

We work hard, and we play hard.

And our employees enjoy a variety of benefits and flexible schedules.

Apply today at [Shoprite.com/careers](https://www.shoprite.com/careers)

Follow us on social media



*Photo by Nick Halliday*



*Sports*

**TOWN SQUARE LIVE**

# WILMINGTON FRIENDS GIRLS SCORE TWO GOALS TO OVERTAKE SANFORD

BY JOE SINGLES

The Sanford girls' soccer team visited Wilmington Friends Tuesday afternoon for an Independent Conference school matchup between two squads looking to improve on last season's success. The first 10 minutes of the match, the Quaker midfielders controlled the pace of the game putting a tremendous amount of pressure on Sanford's defense. However, Sanford's "bend but don't break" approach kept the Quakers offense just out of step enough to limit the home team to any solid scoring opportunities. The first shot on goal for either team came with 17 minutes to go in the first half as Friends pressured the Sanford defense higher, forcing them to make quick decisions. The Quaker pressure intensified as they ripped off a number of shots but were unable to send any past the Warrior goalkeeper.

The final 15 minutes of the half delineated the technical ability of the Friends midfield from the Sanford

squad all except for the center backs who were able to disrupt the Quaker offensive just enough to break up the final passes into the 18-yard box that could have resulted in a shot on goal. The half ended with a 0-0 score, three shots on goal for Friends and no shots on goal for the Warriors squad.

The Quakers continued to dominate possession early in the second half. Sanford defenders looked tired but held strong at least for the moment as the Quaker runs down the sidelines resulted in crosses into the six-yard box and corner kicks. As the second half entered its final 20 minutes, the momentum continued to build for the Quakers as the Sanford defense continued to lose steam. Then, with 19 minutes to go, Friends' Reagan Brady, made a great move with the ball to separate herself from the Warrior defenders and take the ball down the sideline. As the defenders caught up, Brady cut the ball back



“

We saw a boost in website referrals from Delaware LIVE during our admission season.

- URSULINE ACADEMY

to the middle and ripped a beautiful left-footed shot back across the keeper into the side netting for the first goal of the game.

The Quakers found the back of the net again with seven minutes to go off another deep run in the corner by Simran Dattani, who sent the ball across the six-yard box until it met the feet of Ryan Weigand who tapped it into the back of the net past a recovering Sanford keeper. Wilmington Friends went on to win the game 2-0. It plays Thursday at DMA who is coming off an 8-2 loss to St. Mark's Tuesday evening. Sanford will host Newark Charter on Friday afternoon.



# ST. MARK'S SHUTS OUT PADUA

BY NICK HALLIDAY

Ryleigh Thomas was dominant on the mound as St. Mark's held Padua scoreless. Thomas threw a complete game allowing four hits and struck out 15 Pandas. She also added a two-run triple late in the game that helped secure the 5-0 victory.

The Spartans got the scoring started in the second inning when Madeline Casapula reached on an error then was later knocked in on a Brynn Eyler single. Morgan Hall led off the next inning with a single, stole a base then was able to score on another error from the Pandas giving the Spartans a two-run lead after three innings.

In the fourth inning the Spartans would add three more runs. Jordan Alexander reached base safely on an

error as well as Anna Katherine Lovett. Hall collected her second hit of the game following Lovett and knocking in Alexander for the first run of the inning. Thomas then stepped into the batter's box and drove a line drive to the left field fence scoring Lovett and Hall as she reached third base safely for a triple.

Hall led the Spartans at the plate as she went three for three scoring two runs. The Pandas were led by Lauren Schurman who went 1-for-2 with a double.

St. Mark's will travel to Middletown for its next game Thursday at 3:45 p.m.

Padua will host St. Georges Thursday at 3:45 p.m.



PRESCHOOL - GRADE 12

“Friends taught me to think critically, not just in academia, but also as a world citizen.”

- Recent Wilmington Friends School Graduate

LEARN MORE



Together, We Can Get Better Educated

SPEAK UP.  
SHOW UP.  
ACT TOGETHER.

START NOW.

WWW.FSEACTIONFUND.ORG





# SPARTANS BLANK VIKINGS

BY NICK HALLIDAY

John Burns allowed two walks and added eight strikeouts as he shut down any threat the vikings had of scoring. St. Mark's went on to shutout St. Elizabeth's 10-0 in sixinnings Friday evening on Gene Alessandrini field.

St. Elizabeth's sophomore pitcher Luke Trout was throwing a good game himself. He was able to keep the Spartans' strong offensive lineup off the scoreboard for the first two innings. In the third inning, the Spartans would send nine batters to the plate with four of them crossing it with only one hit in the inning. St. Mark's added two more runs in the fifth inning then four more runs in the sixth inning closing out the game.

The Spartans were led by Michael Clarke and Quinn who both had two hits and scored two runs. Francis Olszewski and John Smith had one hit apiece for the Vikings.

St. Mark's heads to Lake Forest Saturday with a 1 p.m. start time. St. Elizabeth's hosts Mount Pleasant Saturday at 11 a.m.



# TOWN SQUARE LIVE

*Let us build your marketing team!*

Develop a strategy. Implement interactive platforms and get your name out there for all to see!

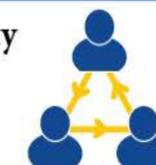
## LOCAL BUSINESS EXPOSURE!

Effectively expand customer reach & exposure!



## LOCAL BUSINESS EXPOSURE!

enhance community engagement and interaction



## LOCAL BUSINESS EXPOSURE!



generate sales, customer retention and loyalty



*it's more than just advertising- it grows your business!*

Contact Bryan Shupe  
302-542-9231  
Bryan@MilfordLive.com



# Stay Connected

**TOWN SQUARE LIVE IS  
YOUR SOURCE FOR NEWS  
AND INFORMATION IN  
THE NEW CASTLE AREA  
OF DELAWARE. STAY  
CONNECTED WITH US BY  
PHONE, EMAIL OR  
SOCIAL MEDIA BY  
CLICKING ON THE LINKS.**



**PHONE: 302-542-9231**



**For News & Information: [NEWS@DELAWARELIVE.COM](mailto:NEWS@DELAWARELIVE.COM)  
To Advertise With Us: [SHUPE@DELAWARELIVE.COM](mailto:SHUPE@DELAWARELIVE.COM)**



**[instagram.com/townsquaredelaware/](https://www.instagram.com/townsquaredelaware/)**



**[twitter.com/townsquarede](https://twitter.com/townsquarede)**



**[facebook.com/townsquarelive/](https://www.facebook.com/townsquarelive/)**

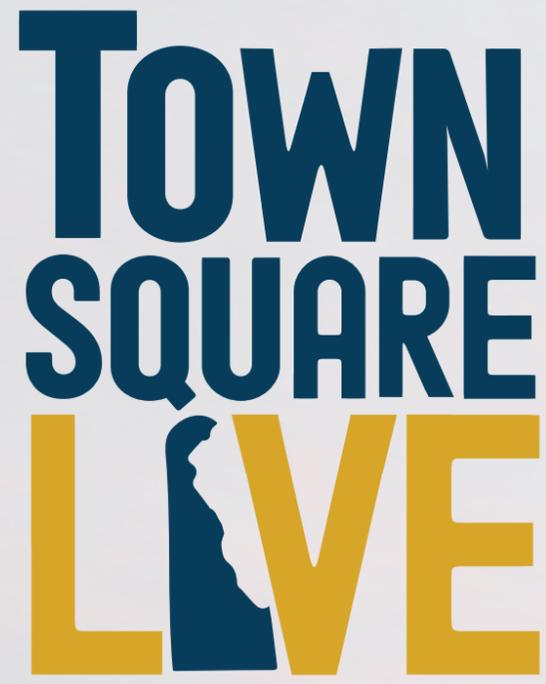


**Watch Delaware Live on YouTube!**



**[linkedin.com/company/delaware-live-news](https://www.linkedin.com/company/delaware-live-news)**

*Photo by SLK Imagery*



 Town Square LIVE  @TownSquareLive

Without these collaborators,  
this outlet would not be  
possible:

Bryan Shupe, CEO

Betsy Price, Editor

Sonja M. Frey, Publisher

*John Mollura Photography*

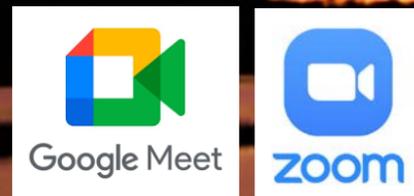
# *Design your 2022 through Intentional Business and Marketing Planning*

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

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

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

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



*Photo by John Gannick*