

photo link: Delaware Greenways

# TOWN SQUARE LIVE

 Town Square LIVE

 @TownSquareLive

**SUBSCRIBE**

**February 16, 2023**  
**Vol. 4, Issue 7**



# Contents

- Community ..... 3
- Business ..... 7
- Food & Dining ..... 11
- Government ..... 13
- Education ..... 19
- Sports ..... 26
- Stay Connected ..... 29



Chancery Market Coutyard & Movie Theater



Fine/Suspension for Milltown Financial Advisor



JFC Asks for ROI on Educational Spending



*Community*

**TOWN SQUARE LIVE**



# SLOW DOWN ON HARVEY ROAD IN THE ARDENS, PLAN URGES

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

Plans underway to improve transportation safety in Arden, Ardencroft and Ardentown would, among other things, aim to slow down traffic on the communities' major roads. The next meeting on the [plan](#), organized by the Wilmington Area Planning Council, was Wednesday, Feb. 15, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Buzz Ware Village Center, 2119 The Highway, Arden.

An 11-page [summary](#) of Connecting With the Ardens shows a lot of traffic on Harvey, Marsh and Veale roads—and also a lot of speeding. Harvey—which runs through the heart of Arden and leads to a half-interchange with Interstate 95—gets 7,000 to 8,000 vehicles per day. Marsh, on its western edge, gets 9,500 to 10,600. Veale, which splits Ardencroft, gets 3,000 to 3,500.

The speed limits in the study area range from 25 to 40 mph, and a traffic study last October concluded that 15% of the traffic at five checkpoints was going 3 to 25 mph faster than the speed limit. The council is propos-

ing—and things change, and that's what these meetings are all about—multiple ways to “manage vehicular speeds and deploy safety countermeasures,” the plan's first goal.

On Harvey at Marsh, for example, a map calls for a gateway and a roundabout. The document exemplifies the gateway with a photo from Rehoboth Beach, showing a large welcome sign in a planting that splits the roadway. Other areas of Harvey would get mini roundabouts and medians, plus bioswales and bumpouts (planted areas that reduce the width of the road). All those encourage drivers, in different ways, to slow down. A second gateway is envisioned at Sconset Road, and Harvey would be narrowed to one through lane westbound as it approaches I-95.

Veale would get six medians, with the speed limit cut from 35 to 25 mph.

Two maps address a second goal, for a bicycle/pedestrian network. One creates bike lanes on both side of



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

Harvey. The other sends cyclists onto less-traveled streets, such as Hillside Road.

The third goal calls for enhancing pedestrian crossings of the three major roads. The fourth goal envisions nicer shelters at 13 school and transit bus stops in the study area. The plan will also explore improving bus service, especially to the new Claymont Transportation Center. Planning is expected to be completed this summer.

The traffic safety plan is intended to integrate with other other initiatives, such as “the villages’ foundational plans, Arden’s Water Quality Master Plan, the Ardentown Paths Plan and the Wilmington Montessori Safe Routes to School Plan.”





# GREAT RELATIONSHIPS = GREAT LEARNERS, VETERAN EDUCATOR SAYS

BY JAREK RUTZ

Schools are in the relationship business, says Vicky Yatzus, who is retiring in June after 15 years as head of Independence School in Newark. That’s the only way to ensure children’s academic and social success, the private school administrator said.

“We’re not organizations that can swiftly and quickly move on a dime and change things up because our kids need constancy,” said Yatzus.

“They come to school every day and they have expectations about what’s going to happen. We know from research that the more consistent we are and the more supportive we are and the more our kids understand what the expectations are, the more successful they are in school.”

That lack of consistency was one of the tragedies of

the COVID-19 pandemic, which forced classes to go virtual. While virtual classes and online lessons have a place in teaching arsenals, Yatzus said, “Not every child can handle an all-online option. To be successful it has to be done well and closely monitored.”

Yatzus, whose first college degree was in psychology from her home country of England, took a round-about path into her 40-year teaching career in Delaware. She originally picked psychology because she was fascinated by why people thought and acted as they do.

Born and raised in the United Kingdom, Yatzus earned that degree from [Newcastle University](#) in northeast England in 1979. She quickly realized she would need to earn a master’s degree to really make an impact in the field.

**CITY Fare**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**  
**(302) 293-0008**

**TWO HOURS TO BRING A SMILE**

**NO MEALS WHEELS DELAWARE**

“I didn’t want to do that so I made the decision to find a job and sort of figure out what it was I really wanted to do,” she said.

Yatzus worked in export sales for a while and then decided to act on her desire to work with children by going into teaching.

Her parents had moved to Delaware while she was in college, and she decided to move to the First State, too, and in 1979 enrolled at the University of Delaware.

UD officials suggested she earn a master’s instead of a simple certification and offered her a scholarship that would pay for her tuition and give her a stipend for working as a teaching assistant in the College of Education.

[CLICK TO READ MORE](#)



# CHANCERY MARKET TO OPEN COURTYARD; NEW MOVIE THEATER MOVES IN

BY BETSY PRICE

Two more big changes are coming to the downtown Wilmington space formerly known as the Hercules Building.

- The **Chancery Market Food Hall & Bar** will open its 10,000-square-foot garden plaza in May.
- An independent movie theater—The Screening Room at 1313—will open this month, showing first-run movies, starting with compilations of the short films nominated for Oscars.

## CHANCERY COURTYARD

The Chancery Market will complement its indoor court with an outdoor space designed by the Delaware Center for Horticulture.

The courtyard will offer green lawns, new landscaping, decorative hardscaping and seating for 150, as well as an indoor/outdoor bar, fireplace and large screen television. Families and visitors will be able to enjoy games, live music and other seasonal activities surrounded by views of the downtown Wilmington skyline.

It's designed to be family, co-working and business meeting-friendly, said a press release from the Chancery Market.

One of the bonuses of the building at 1313 N. Market St. is the onsite garage, including three-hour complimentary parking for those dining at the market Monday-Friday from 5:30 p.m. to close and all day Saturday and Sunday.

## MORE ON THEATER

The parking and food hall were part of the attraction for the owners of The Screening Room at 1313. Guests will be allowed to bring in dinner from the food court, but also take advantage of the popcorn, snacks and drinks usually associated with movie theaters. Oscar-nominated shorts are expected to run there on the weekends of Feb. 17 and 24.



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

LEARN WHY DELAWARE TEACHERS CHOOSE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS → DCSN

photo by fauxels on Pexel



*Business*

**TOWN SQUARE LIVE**



## STATE CHAMBER: PROPOSED FAMILY LEAVE RULES 'VERY UNCLEAR'

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

The Delaware State Chamber of Commerce has raised significant concerns about an early draft of regulations to implement a new state law requiring paid family leave.

“While I appreciate the enormity of your task, and with no disrespect intended, I find the law and existing draft regulations to be extremely daunting and difficult to use,” **Timothy M. Holly** wrote on the first page of his 41-page letter, prepared for the chamber and sent to the Delaware Department of Labor. He is co-chair of the labor and employment law group at Connolly Gallagher in Wilmington.

“In short, the law and regulations present a substantial burden as to both learning and implementation, with the ‘how-to’ and ‘what must I do’ frequently very unclear.”

The **Healthy Delaware Families Act**, which Gov. John Carney signed into law last May, mandates up to 12 weeks of paid family and medical leave for Delaware

workers starting Jan. 1, 2025. The long gap is to allow time for creating regulations, forms, portals and other bureaucratic elements.

“This is exponentially complicated,” said Michael Quaranta, president of the chamber, referring to challenges that will make it difficult for small businesses to comply with Delaware’s family leave rules. “Compliance with the federal Family and Medical Leave Act is complicated enough.” He emphasized the limited expertise of small businesses and the complexity of compliance.

Delaware has about 57,000 businesses. Big businesses employ about 240,000 workers. Small businesses—56,000 of them—employ the other 240,000 workers. Small businesses often **hire** a human resources staffer only when they reach 20 to 30 employees.

In the letter, Holly raises a dozen “high-level observations, requests and/or concerns.”

He starts out by asking how employers should handle salaried workers and owner/employees and how part-time status factors in employee count. Provisions apply differently to employers with at least 25 employees, employers with 10-24 employees and others. That last category includes the obvious (employers with less than 10 employees), and also the federal government and seasonal businesses.

“Employers will have many questions for which there appears to be no answers,” he writes in the letter for the chamber about applying the new law to telecommuting and traveling for work.

In the letter, he writes about burdens and lack of clarity at least 30 times each. “Delaware, including DDOL through these regulations, is making it increasingly difficult to do business in Delaware,” he writes. “It is self-defeating to do so. Proceed with caution. And ease employer burden, please.”

Unsurprisingly, all the politicians quoted when Carney signed the bill lauded the benefits, not the burdens. “It will make Delaware more attractive for younger workers,” Carney said.

Sen. Sarah McBride, D-Wilmington and the bill’s primary sponsor, referred questions to the Delaware Senate Majority Caucus, which referred questions to the Delaware Department of Labor. The department plans to submit regulations to the Office of the Registrar March 15.

“This does include a public comment period,” a department spokesman said.

[CLICK TO READ MORE](#)



# BRANDYWINE TOWN CENTER REDEVELOPMENT TWEAKED

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

Community feedback has inspired tweaks to plans to redevelop the Brandywine Town Center. “They want to elevate the look, the feel and the offerings” in the area closest to Naamans Road, said Mike Hoffman, of Tarabicos, Grosso & Hoffman, the Delaware land use attorney for the Acadia Realty Trust. “It should be the front door and the heart of the property.”

The center was developed from a single tract—the old Brandywine Raceway, which closed in 1989—but has had varied success in different segments since it opened in 1997.

The back, at the northern side of the Brandywine Hundred property, is a successful power center of big-box stores, like Lowe’s. True, they come and go as chains reconsider their operations: the hhgregg closed in 2017, and the Bed, & Bath and Beyond is having a **closing** sale.

The front, with smaller retailers and a Target, is less successful, Acadia says in acknowledging “tenant retention issues.”

Acadia unveiled its latest plan Wednesday at a meeting co-hosted by the influential Council of Civic Organizations of Brandywine Hundred and New Castle County Councilwoman Dee Durham.

## TWO BIG CHANGES

There are two big changes from what Acadia **proposed** last fall, Hoffman said: The community building will be moving east, away from the pond (on the bottom right of the rendering). And the path encircling the pond has been lengthened, widened and rerouted (dark gray on the rendering).

[CLICK TO READ MORE](#)



**Don't let COVID-19 freeze your holiday season.**

COVID-19 doesn't just crash holiday get-togethers — it cancels them. So whatever you're celebrating this season, make sure you've gotten your bivalent booster and follow these other steps to stay safe and leave COVID out in the cold.

**Stay home if you're sick.**  
**Get vaccinated and boosted.**  
**Get tested before and after gatherings.**  
**Wear a mask when cases are high.**

 DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES  
Division of Public Health

For more information, visit [de.gov/holidays](https://de.gov/holidays).





# DELAWARE GIVES BIG GRANTS TO 10 SMALL BUSINESSES

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

Ten small businesses in Delaware have been awarded grants in the sixth round of the Encouraging Development, Growth and Expansion competition. Since the state government launched EDGE in 2019, \$4.2 million has been awarded to 68 promising small businesses. In this round, more than 120 businesses applied for grants.

Businesses that are less than five years old and employ no more than 10 employees are eligible for grants up to \$100,000 for STEM-based companies and up to \$50,000 for others, called the entrepreneur class.

EDGE is a matching grant program. The Division of Small Business matches a winner's investment on a 3-to-1 basis.

Seven out of the 10 winners are women-owned businesses; three are veteran-owned businesses; and two are owned by minorities. Since the program's inception, 41% of EDGE winners have been women-owned businesses, and 27% have been minority-owned.

### STEM class

**A. I. Whoo** (Newark) is developing an app for clinicians to remotely conduct gait assessments, used to diagnose disorders in walking patterns. The grant will be used to develop and market the app.

**All Azimuth Solutions** (Magnolia) is developing an electronic Community Advanced Air Mobility Toolkit for educational and outreach materials. The grant will be used to develop the business.

**BioCurie** (Wilmington) is developing the world's first AI-based software for cell and gene therapy. The grant will fund the commercialization of BioCurie's first product.

**Rotulu** (Camden) is developing an app that provides real-time busing information for parents and schools. The grant will be used to improve the app.

**Voice 4 Impact** (Wilmington) has patented technology to create safer and healthier communities. The grant will be used in various ways, including scaling its platform

to serve more utilities and tolling and transportation facilities.

### Entrepreneur class

**BlackDog Behavior and Training LLC** (Wilmington) will use the grant to expand into a more sustainable operating model using a standalone space for training activities.

**Nourish Markets** provides 24-hour access to healthy, affordable and sustainable food. The grant will be used to purchase frictionless hardware equipment so it can open a second location. Its first is at 111 Continental Drive, near Newark, is small, cashier-less convenience store, similar to Amazon Go.

**Pink Electrical Services** (Clayton) will use the grant to purchase up to two work trucks.

**Rail Haus** is a German-style beer garden planned for downtown Dover. The grant will be used to purchase outdoor heaters, firepits, trees, sod and a sprinkler system.

**Sassy Bee Honey LLC** (Bellefonte) is a certified naturally grown apiary. The grant will be used to renovate a 400-square-foot space and purchase equipment.



photo link: SoDel Concepts



# Food & Dining

TOWNSQUARE LIVE



# BIG FISH WINS CONTRACT AT INDIAN RIVER MARINA

The **Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control** said in a press release that Hammerheads' contract expires at the end of February.

## WHAT BIG FISH GETS, MUST DO

Big Fish's contract will run from March 1, 2023, to Feb. 28, 2033, and includes the 1,400-square-foot building with an outside usable deck and pergola area of approximately 1,100 square feet, plus a grass area extended from the deck.

It says that Big Fish will operate the marina restaurant "with full waterfront menu fare, including but not limited to, fully prepared seafood dishes (excluding off premise raw seafood sales), entrees, appetizers, desserts, alcoholic beverages, non-alcoholic beverages, and any other refreshments necessary to carry on the business for the public."

Big Fish will also be required to provide breakfast and delivery service to the **Indian River Marina** and to the park's North Inlet Campground.

"We welcome Big Fish to the Indian River Marina and look forward to watching their progress in meeting the growing needs of our park and marina visitors. Their business has won more than 50 awards for quality of service they offer to the public," said DNREC Secretary

## BY BETSY PRICE

In a move that upset a lot of beach diners, the state has awarded a 10-year restaurant contract at Indian River Marina to **Big Fish Restaurant Group**, essentially booting **Hammerheads Dockside** out of a location it's had for a decade.

The contract, open to all bidders, came under scrutiny at the end of January when Hammerheads went public with an announcement on their Facebook page announcing, "There's no room for little fish in Delaware anymore." A week later it posted a photo of the property in 2013, when it won the bid, and another photo showing built-out spaces Hammerheads had installed. It is owned by George Bendler and Cohen Sade.

Many of the people reacting the Hammerheads' posts expressed anger and frustration, partly reacting to restaurant groups such as Big Fish and Sodel taking over a number of longtime eateries that were once solo acts.

**BENVENUTO**  
*Tuscan Inspired*  
**RESTAURANT**

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

FIND US ON FACEBOOK  
**@BenvenutoMilford**

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

Shawn M. Garvin. "While it is it is never easy to change concessionaires, the state RFP process is fair and Big Fish Restaurant Group submitted the winning proposal this time."

The process used seven criteria categories, a DNREC statements said, with 80% of the score including quality and diversity of the menu; past performance; the vendor's action plan; vendor's financial stability; creativity in planning; and designing and delivering a successful establishment, and revenue paid to the state equating for 20% of the total score.

[CLICK TO READ MORE](#)



*Government*

**TOWN SQUARE LIVE**

# \$60K FINE, TWO-YEAR SUSPENSION FOR MILLTOWN FINANCIAL ADVISER

unit the reason a former employer had terminated him. In June 2022, the presiding officer overseeing the matter found that Prettyman had made materially false and misleading statements to the unit. Around the same time, the unit received additional information that led it to open a new investigation into four issues:

- Whether he continued to provide advisory services while unregistered.
- Whether his recommendations to former advisory clients regarding annuities were suitable under the circumstances.
- Whether his attempt to move client assets en masse was a breach of his fiduciary duties to those clients.
- Whether he acquired a Florida driver's license in an attempt to avoid having to register in Delaware.

This settlement resolves both the administrative matter and the new investigation. Financial professionals—who use various titles, such as broker and investment adviser—need to register at [brokercheck.finra.org](https://brokercheck.finra.org) and [adviserinfo.sec.gov](https://adviserinfo.sec.gov).

**Prettyman's** profiles on the two **sites** have similar information. He was terminated at Hornor, Townsend & Kent in Horsham, PA, in 2019 “for violating member firm policy by use of copied signature pages to open multiple accounts for the same client and changing dates on client paperwork.” He also worked at Cambridge Investment Research, which has multiple offices, and Kovack Advisors in Fort Lauderdale, FL.

“Protecting investors from unscrupulous financial professionals is at the core of investor protection,” said Attorney General Kathy Jennings. “Investors put a lot of trust into their investment professionals and it is important that the trust is deserved. This means that investment professionals may not mislead the very regulators tasked with monitoring them.”



## BY KEN MAMMARELLA

The president of a Milltown financial advice company will pay \$60,000 in fines and serve a 2½-year suspension from registration in Delaware. The penalties were assessed on financial adviser Robert Brandon Prettyman for “making false and misleading statements” to the state securities regulator and “providing advisory services to clients while unregistered to do so.”

His Kirkwood Highway company, Summit Wealth Advisors, has a live [website](#) where the only person profiled is R. Brandon Prettyman. According to the site, he is a Delaware native and a graduate of Caravel Academy. “His choice to play college golf led him to Methodist University in Fayetteville, North Carolina, where he graduated with a business and finance degree.” He and his wife, Tina, live in Bear with their children, Shayne and Brantley, it says.

Work by the state agency involved, the Investor Protection Unit of the Delaware Department of Justice, allowed three Delaware investors to unwind their purchases of annuities and avoid collectively spending over \$100,000 in commissions, along with tens of thousands of dollars in surrender charges, associated with those unwanted transactions.

The unit initiated an administrative matter against Prettyman in December 2021, alleging that, among other things, he had misrepresented in a sworn statement to the



# COMFORT DOG JOINS DELAWARE JUDICIARY STAFF

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

A comfort dog has joined the staff of the Delaware courts system.

“The courthouse does not have to be a scary place,” said Chief Justice Collins J. Seitz Jr. “We believe the services of Officer Vinn will help make the Justice Center more welcoming, or at least not as stressful, particularly for children involved in court proceedings.”

Vinn is a “facility” dog, assigned to work in the Leonard L. Williams Justice Center in Wilmington. His hiring is a joint effort of the Delaware Judiciary and the Delaware Capitol Police. He was inspired by **Nikko**, the New Castle County Police Department comfort dog, who **visits** schools and otherwise helps police.

“Vinn is a highly trained K-9 that loves interaction with people,” said Delaware Capitol Police Chief Michael F. Hertzfeld, who created the pilot program. “He has a natural personality and demeanor that is different from our other working dogs at the courthouse.”

Vinn has been trained to help those dealing with anxiety in a courtroom or courthouse setting and will be available on **request** and as-needed basis. Sr. Cpl. Donna DiClemente is his handler.



## Treat Yourself

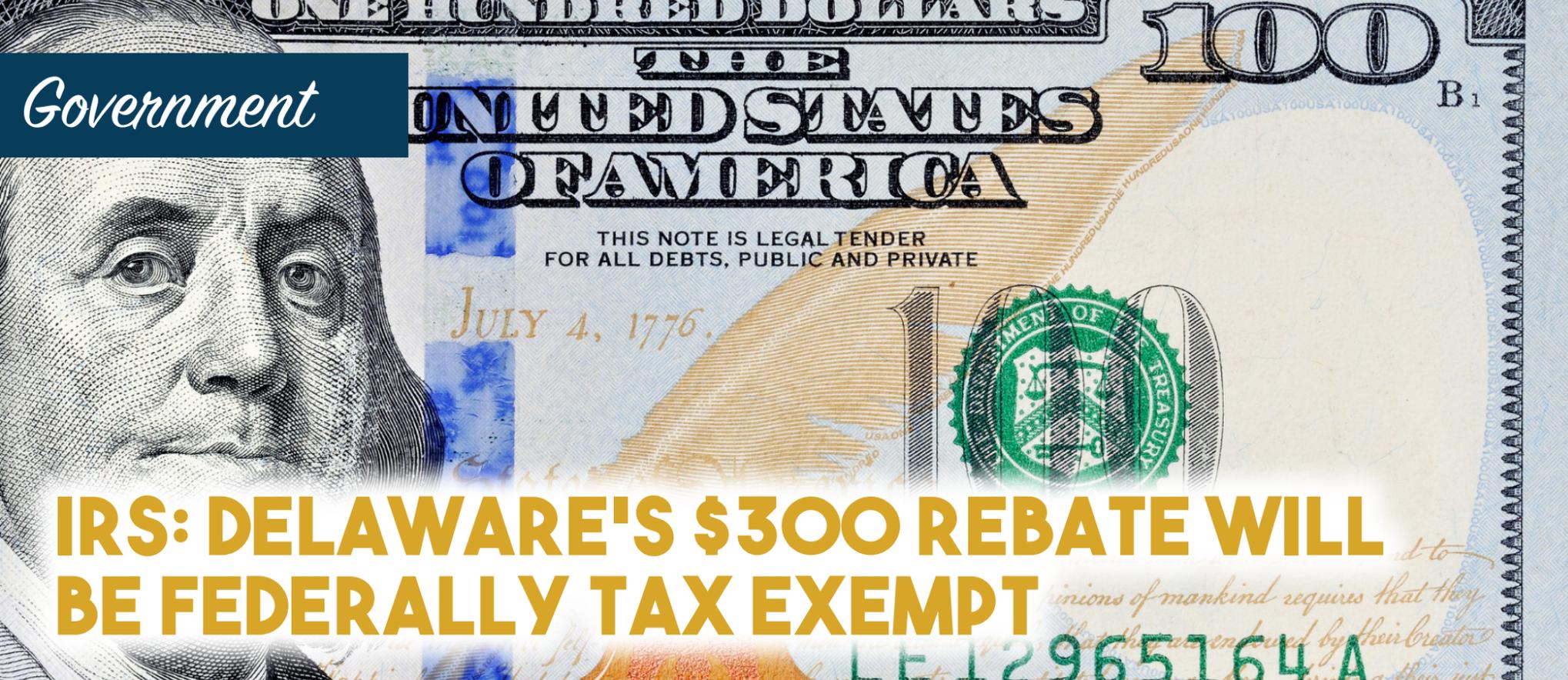
What’s better than a warm treat on a winter day?

Family owned and operated, **Kenny Family Shoprites of Delaware** have proudly supported our local community for more than 25 years.

We look forward to nourishing you and your family in 2023 and beyond!



@kennyfamstores kennyfamilystores



**BY BETSY PRICE**

The \$300 state tax relief rebate that nearly 800,000 Delaware residents received in 2022 will not be taxed by the federal government.

The Internal Revenue Service said Feb. 10 that the First State is one of **21 states** whose rebates will not be included in income because they are designated as qualified disaster payments.

The General Assembly authorized the payments last year, on the heels of two years of complaints from Republican members that the state's record high surpluses should mean tax breaks for residents instead of only splurge spending by the state.

Legislators contended it was needed to help people still recovering from losses during the coronavirus pandemic and because of rising gasoline prices and widespread inflation.

Then in January, House Democrats moved to classify the tax rebate as a qualified disaster payment, and the **House Bill 25** blew through the House and Senate before they took their February break.

**REBATE COST STATE \$180 MILLION**

The money also is not subject to Delaware income taxes. House Minority Leader Rep. Lyndon Yearick, R-Camden, Wyoming, in a January press release that he hoped the General Assembly “can retain the bipartisan cooperation demonstrated on this measure as we look to further help working Delawareans struggling with higher inflationary costs.”

The Delaware program was estimated to cost more than \$180 million, which was funded through a budget surplus.

The IRS announcement Feb. 10 said it had “determined that in the interest of sound tax administration and other factors,” Delaware residents didn’t need to report that money on federal tax returns.

Other states whose payments were related to general welfare or disaster relief included California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Maine, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island.

Some Alaska, Georgia, Massachusetts, South Carolina and Virginia residents also will be able to benefit from the ruling, if they meet certain requirements.

# NCCO SEWER BILLS GO FEE-FREE WHEN PAYING ONLINE

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

New Castle County has started to accept credit cards and digital wallets for sewer bills—without any extra fees to users.

“NO FEES!” the county announced on a insert on attention-grabbing green paper in the bills for sewer service charges that just went out.

As the insert explains, the county has an arrangement with a company called Paymentus that calls for no extra fee for consumers paying sewer bills by “e-check from your bank, credit card (Visa, MasterCard, Discover and American Express), debit card, Venmo, PayPal, PayPal Credit, Google Pay, Amazon Pay or Apple Pay.” And, as the insert states, consumers save 63 cents in postage.

The change, which started July 1, is “to encourage/promote convenient/affordable/accessible online payment options,” said county spokesman Brian Cunningham.

“All sewer payments are FREE OF CHARGE,” the county says on its [website](#), noting in the next sentence that tax payments are free only if they are by e-check or by automated clearing house, known as ACH.

County tax bills paid by most digital systems, however, will continue to have a convenience fee. Credit card fees are 2.35% of the transaction, another [page](#) says.



# 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!

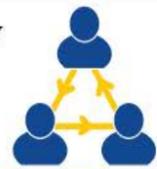
## LOCAL BUSINESS EXPOSURE!

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



## WILL FOAM CUPS, CONTAINERS BE BANNED LIKE PLASTIC BAGS?

BY SAM HAUT

A bill that would ban restaurant use of foam takeout containers, plastic straws and beverage stirrers, is being shopped around for co-sponsors in Dover.

It's the second time that Sen. Trey Paradee, D-Dover, has moved to ban the containers and straws. A similar bill introduced in 2021 passed the Senate but didn't make it to the House floor. The bill would also ban cocktail picks and sandwich picks made of plastic, and would be implemented beginning July 1, 2025, if signed into law.

It does, however, allow customers to request a straw and exempts straws attached to an item such as a juice box and straws being used in a hospital or long-term care facility. Efforts were unsuccessful to reach Paradee for comment.

The [Delaware Restaurant Association](#) isn't thrilled. Again.

"We oppose the bill because we believe in a voluntary approach to any business decision within the restaurant," said association President Carrie Leishman. "More and more businesses are moving away for alternative packaging."

Many restaurants are phasing out less environmentally friendly packages, she said. "The majority of our restaurants have already phased out this type of packaging. Many of them did it as their carry-out business increased and their customer base asked for it," she said.

Smaller ethnic restaurants, many of which continue to use foam containers, are still struggling, she said.

### FOAM CITED AS LITTER

"We can't leave out one segment of the industry," she said. Leishman says it is too soon since the worst days of the pandemic to force businesses not use plastic packaging. She said inflation and supply chain issues need to settle down before forcing changes.

"I just think we need to get through a year or two to see where the industry and inflation are," Leishman said. "We just need to wait longer."

If the bill were to pass, Delaware would join Colorado, Maine, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Vermont, Virginia, Washington and Washington, D.C. in banning plastic foam, which the bill calls polystyrene foam food service packaging.

The bill says that discarded single-service plastic items and polystyrene packaging from food, beverages, and other products constitute a significant and growing portion of litter found in Delaware's parks, beaches, streets, and other public spaces. They are typically discarded by consumers and are not recyclable, the bill says.

It would allow the use of those plastic products in pre-packaged food and by health-care providers, fire companies and nonprofit organizations.

Leishman said those exemptions make the bill more political than environmental.

"They are requiring one segment of the food service industry to not use certain types of packaging, but they're allowing fire halls and non profits...who do so much carry out and food service in their businesses, to continue to use it," she said.

photo link: Christiana High School

CHRISTIANA HIGH SCHOOL			
BOYS TRACK RECORDS	GIRLS TRACK RECORDS		
NAME	YEAR	NAME	YEAR
A. BARRY	11.81	A. BARRY	11.81
A. BARRY	14.20	A. BARRY	14.20
A. BARRY	16.20	A. BARRY	16.20
A. BARRY	18.20	A. BARRY	18.20
A. BARRY	20.20	A. BARRY	20.20
A. BARRY	22.20	A. BARRY	22.20
A. BARRY	24.20	A. BARRY	24.20
A. BARRY	26.20	A. BARRY	26.20
A. BARRY	28.20	A. BARRY	28.20
A. BARRY	30.20	A. BARRY	30.20
A. BARRY	32.20	A. BARRY	32.20
A. BARRY	34.20	A. BARRY	34.20
A. BARRY	36.20	A. BARRY	36.20
A. BARRY	38.20	A. BARRY	38.20
A. BARRY	40.20	A. BARRY	40.20
A. BARRY	42.20	A. BARRY	42.20
A. BARRY	44.20	A. BARRY	44.20
A. BARRY	46.20	A. BARRY	46.20
A. BARRY	48.20	A. BARRY	48.20
A. BARRY	50.20	A. BARRY	50.20
A. BARRY	52.20	A. BARRY	52.20
A. BARRY	54.20	A. BARRY	54.20
A. BARRY	56.20	A. BARRY	56.20
A. BARRY	58.20	A. BARRY	58.20
A. BARRY	60.20	A. BARRY	60.20
A. BARRY	62.20	A. BARRY	62.20
A. BARRY	64.20	A. BARRY	64.20
A. BARRY	66.20	A. BARRY	66.20
A. BARRY	68.20	A. BARRY	68.20
A. BARRY	70.20	A. BARRY	70.20
A. BARRY	72.20	A. BARRY	72.20
A. BARRY	74.20	A. BARRY	74.20
A. BARRY	76.20	A. BARRY	76.20
A. BARRY	78.20	A. BARRY	78.20
A. BARRY	80.20	A. BARRY	80.20
A. BARRY	82.20	A. BARRY	82.20
A. BARRY	84.20	A. BARRY	84.20
A. BARRY	86.20	A. BARRY	86.20
A. BARRY	88.20	A. BARRY	88.20
A. BARRY	90.20	A. BARRY	90.20
A. BARRY	92.20	A. BARRY	92.20
A. BARRY	94.20	A. BARRY	94.20
A. BARRY	96.20	A. BARRY	96.20
A. BARRY	98.20	A. BARRY	98.20
A. BARRY	100.20	A. BARRY	100.20

HOME	1:00	VISITOR
26	PERIOD 2	26
BONUS		BONUS
0	PLAYER FOULS	0
		FOULS
		0



HOME OF  
CHRISTIANA  
VIKINGS

WE HAVE VIKING PRIDE



*Education*

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



# JFC ASKS FOR RETURN ON INVESTMENT ON EDUCATIONAL SPENDING

BY JAREK RUTZ

Several members of the Joint Finance Committee asked the Department of Education officials on Wednesday when and if they would ever see a return on the state’s investment in public education.

Student achievement metrics, like standardized test scores, have fallen off a cliff over the past decade and the state still faces a teacher shortage.

Education Secretary Mark Holodick and Kim Klein, associate secretary of operations, asked for \$1,976,146,300 from the state’s Fiscal Year 2024 budget. That’s about an 8% increase in available funds from last year.

Sen. Dave Lawson, R-Marydel, said he’s been on the committee for a decade and hears the same speech every year while test scores and school climate continue to plummet.

“We’re not getting any benefit, and the taxpayers are getting tired of it,” he said. “They’re being assessed more and more taxes but they’re not getting the benefit, and kids are coming out lower and lower and lower.”

He called for stricter discipline in schools and said too often that students causing serious problems just get a slap on the wrist or counseling.

The department asked the committee for \$30 million for mental health services for next year. Teachers are burdened with much more than just teaching, he said, and students need to be hardened by the realities of life rather than being babied.

“If we don’t have guardrails and discipline and have it enforced, we’re not going anywhere,” he said. “We’re going to go backwards because the teachers aren’t going to put up with it. They’re going to leave.”

Sen. Eric Buckson, R-Dover, agreed that students could use a stronger backbone. Schools are teaching students that they somehow went through hell and back during COVID, he said.

[CLICK TO READ MORE](#)

**URSULINE ACADEMY**

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

Upper School | October 3  
Lower & Middle | November 11

**Do your dollars make sense?**

---

All DE schools are funded through a strict formula no matter the needs of the students.

The "one-size-fits- all" approach has not worked, right?

If we want DE to get smart like our neighbors...

Join the conversation.  
**Click to subscribe to our newsletter.**

FIRST STATE EDUCATE

EXPECT EXCELLENCE • ACT TOGETHER

# COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS APPLICATION DEADLINES ARE APPROACHING

BY JAREK RUTZ

A variety of community groups are offering college scholarships, and students who want to apply need to get on it, because at least one deadline is today.

“Our scholarship programs are created by generous people who understand that higher education is expensive and they want Delaware students to have more opportunity,” said Allison Levine, vice president of marketing for the Delaware Community Foundation.

Applying to scholarships is important because being granted one helps ease the burden of debt students can accrue during their college years, she said. Scholarships are available for students of all different backgrounds and interests.

“Some scholarships are for students who are from certain communities or certain high schools,” Levine said.

“Some are for students who are pursuing particular career paths or have certain kinds of experiences. We have some that are specifically for students interested in careers in agriculture or health care or business.”

Here are some scholarship opportunities throughout the state:

### ***Delaware Community Foundation***

Deadline: Wednesday, March 15

The Delaware Community Foundation is distributing about \$400,000 in various scholarships this year. The foundation partners with donors who create scholarship funds to build opportunity through education and awards roughly 200 scholarships annually. Explore the more than 50 scholarship opportunities the foundation offers [HERE](#). Many of the scholarships are for \$1,000 or more.

### ***Department of Education’s Office of Higher Education***

Deadline: Friday, Feb. 24; Monday, May 15.

Delaware’s Department of Education lists seven open scholarships for children of dead military veterans, for those pursuing a degree in a high needs career fields, such as education, nursing and computer science, and more. Awards vary but the highest scholarship amount listed is for \$5,000.

Click [HERE](#) to learn more and apply.

### ***New Castle County scholarship program***

Deadline: Friday, March 24

New Castle County students who are currently enrolled in or will attend an accredited college in the fall of 2023 are encouraged to apply [HERE](#). The scholarships range from \$500 to \$3,000. More than \$100,000 in scholarships to more than 80 students were distributed last year.

To be eligible, students must reside in the county, must demonstrate financial need through the following documents: FAFSA student aid report, W2, pay stubs and/or a benefits verification letter or statement.

Family members of the applicant who are also enrolled in post-secondary degree programs are encouraged to apply. Finalists will be invited to interview with the scholarship committee starting in April and winners will be invited to an awards ceremony in May.



# EDUCATOR PAY COMMITTEE DELAYS SALARY VOTE OVER BUDGET, TIMELINE

BY JAREK RUTZ

Plans to recommend how the state will significantly hike salaries of teachers as well as school administrators and nurses, stalled Monday night amid concerns about the state budget and the timeline of raises. The 15-person Public Education Compensation Committee debating the issue was created this year to make recommendations on Delaware educator compensation.

Officials hope raises will both address the teacher shortage and create salaries to compete with other states in the region, including Maryland, which plans to bring a teacher's base salary to \$60,000 by 2027.

The committee was considering a recommendation that would provide a 2% increase and a flat dollar increase to the base salary for teachers, nurses and administrators each year until it reaches \$60,000.

Sen. Laura Sturgeon, D-Hockessin and chair of the Senate Education Committee, said she couldn't vote for the plan because there's no formal timeline attached. She called the committee out for making excuses about delaying salary raises.

Sturgeon said some of the members seem to have the mentality that it's OK to be years behind Maryland just because Maryland started first.

"While in the meantime, while this longer period of time is being waited for, our students are the ones who are suffering because they have substitute teachers in their classes, because they're being taught by a computer with a teacher in another room and an aide walking around babysitting them," she said.

A former teacher, Sturgeon said she was told for 25 years to do what's best for students. That's a hypocritical message now as students and their academic success are the victims of the teacher shortage, yet the committee is fine waiting many years to get to the \$60,000 base salary, she said.

"Let's keep in mind that every year we delay in being regionally competitive is another year that our students are negatively impacted, and that is not something I can support," she said.

Sturgeon also took offense to several committee mem-

bers who were trying to determine how the salary increases would work with the state budget.

"This is a recommendation to make us regionally competitive," Sturgeon said. "That's what the PECC has been asked to do. Not to figure out how to pay for it. That is the job of the Joint Finance Committee and it is the job of the governor when he puts out his governor's recommended budget."

By conflating those responsibilities, she said, the committee will be pushed into making a lesser recommendation than what First State students deserve and what teachers need.

"It's not just about what the governor, what the state and the Joint Finance Committee can do, it's also about what the various school districts can do in that time period," said Cerron Cade, director of the Office of Management and Budget.

With the present pay scale, the state is responsible for 70% of a school employee's salary, while the local districts have a 30% share.

[CLICK TO READ MORE](#)

# EDS UP: SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES MUST FILE BY MARCH 3

BY JAREK RUTZ

Candidates have 19 days left to file to run in the May 9 school board elections, and education advocates hope to encourage more people to run in those three weeks.

“There’s a lot more community members than there are elected people, so if you don’t like the direction that your community is going in, run,” said Laurisa Schutt, executive director of **First State Educate**. It’s a local advocacy group whose mission is to catalyze radical change in education by activating the power of Delawareans.

Competition ultimately benefits the community, said Helen Salita, a campaign manager for ACLU Delaware.

“People should be able to have a choice to ask questions, to see where candidates stand on issues and then reflect on what’s best for communities,” Salita said. “If there’s only one candidate running...it really takes away

the community’s voice and their ability to say what they think is best.”

This election will have 23 seats open across 16 school districts. So far, only seven candidates have filed to run. Last year, 42 candidates **ran** for 19 seats.

John Marinucci, executive director of the Delaware School Boards Association, said it’s too early to appraise the numbers of candidates. This year’s filing deadline is March 3.

“We may have some people that are in the process of filing and they’re not considered a candidate yet because they’re still in the process,” he said. “There are other incumbents that just haven’t filed yet and I’m sure they plan to file.”

[CLICK TO READ MORE](#)

**GBC** 1886 **Goldey-Beacom COLLEGE**

## NEW GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

- Certificate in Marketing
- Certificate in Human Resource Management
- Certificate in Health Care Management
- Certificate in Entrepreneurship
- Certificate in Information Technology

**LOCATION** | **CONTACT** | **WEBSITE**

4701 Limestone Road  
Wilmington, DE 19808

302-225-6248  
Admissions@gbc.edu

www.gbc.edu/



# 12 STUDENTS COMPETE FOR DELAWARE POETRY CROWN MARCH 2

BY JAREK RUTZ

Padua's Julia Nowaczyk is looking forward to reading two poems to a packed Smyrna Opera House in three weeks.

"It means a lot to me when I get to share poetry," said Nowaczyk, a sophomore. "The poems I have picked for this competition center around a theme of community and family."

She is one of 12 First State students who are in Delaware's 2023 Poetry Out Loud state final competition, which will be held in-person for the first time in three years on Thursday, March 2. The finalists are:

- Bekah Booth, Delaware Valley Classical School
- Maiss Hussein, Hodgson Vo-Tech High School
- Emily Roth, MOT High School
- Aiden Morris, Mount Sophia Academy
- Lale Ergen, Newark Charter High School
- Julia Nowaczyk, Padua Academy
- Hunter Brown, Red Lion Christian Academy
- Abigail Ehemann, Saint Mark's High School
- Kaylee Rathbone, Sanford School
- Joelle Caternor, Smyrna High School
- Morgan Burnett, Sussex Central High School
- Ololade Olubowale, Tatnall School

They all advanced through their school competition after selecting and reciting works from an anthology of more than 1,200 poems.

The winner gets \$200 and will advance to the national finals in Washington, D.C., from May 8-10, with \$50,000 in awards on the line.

From her performance, Nowaczyk hopes people take away the love and admiration she has for those whose words she shares with the world. She will read "Genetics" by Jacqueline Woodson and "The New Colossus" by Emma Lazarus in the state final.

**Poetry Out Loud** is a national arts education program and annual competition for high school students. The final is open to the public and is free, but seating is limited to 250 people.





# LEARNING COLLAB TALKS BUDGET, EXECUTOR DIRECTOR SALARY

BY JAREK RUTZ

Wilmington Learning Collaborative officials grappled over budget plans and filled two vacant council positions Thursday night in their second meeting since forming. The term length for those positions is two years.

Shanika Perry, a Brandywine school board member on the governing council, was appointed by Gov. John Carney to serve as the chair of the collaborative, which is dedicated to helping the city’s elementary and middle school children learn and achieve more.

Christina’s Donald Patton, who is Wilmington Mayor Mike Purzycki’s appointee to the council, was selected as the vice-chair.

After in-depth discussions about establishing bylaws simmered down with none being approved, the group refocused on how it would finalize its operational budget and its school program budget.

Delaware’s operating budget allocates \$7 million annually for the Collab. At Carney’s State of the State address last week, he recommended an additional \$3 million towards it for Fiscal Year 2024, which starts July 1.

Kim Klein, who works in operational support for the Department of Education, told the council members that they shouldn’t bank on additional funds each year. Any spending over the \$7 million mark should be a one-time allocation, rather than built into their yearly spending, he said.

The group voted to create a budget committee tasked with outlining their initial budget. Co-chaired by Jennie Yeow, Red Clay’s parent representative, and Christina’s Alethea Smith-Tucker, the committee will include the chief financial officers from Brandywine, Christina and Red Clay, the three districts that make up the Collab.

Estimated allocations must be submitted to the Department of Education by May 15, and final allocations by July 15.

Although the meeting was supposed to focus on creating bylaws, Matt Lintner, lawyer for the Governor’s Office, told the council that bylaws aren’t crucial right now.

“I would want bylaws at some point within six months from now,” he said. “If I was you guys. I would not worry about it right now. I would just get an executive director and start having a couple of meetings and figure out what the issues are that you’re trying to navigate around and how bylaws might help you or not.”

Brandywine Superintendent Lincoln Hohler said some policies definitely should be put into place, especially when the Collab is handling millions of dollars in funding. Patton agreed.

“We don’t want to just spend \$7 million, \$10 million or \$17 million and then be sitting back at the table saying we had no progress,” he said. Leadership matters to the success of the learning collaborative, he said, and the council needs to hire a strong, qualified leader.

The group is still developing a job description for the executive director. After comparing averages of admins and directors throughout the three districts, the council voted on a starting salary range between \$156,000 to \$176,000.

Near the end of the meeting, Yeow asked the council to make sure they consider Latino individuals for the executive director position and other roles the council might need to fill moving forward.

[CLICK TO READ MORE](#)

photo by Glenn Frazer



*Sports*

**TOWN SQUARE LIVE**

# SUSSEX CENTRAL, CARAVEL TOP SEEDS IN STATE WRESTLING DUALS

BY BENNY MITCHELL

The Sussex Central Golden Knights earned the top seed in Division I while the Caravel Academy Buccaneers got the nod in Division II for the upcoming DIAA dual meet state wrestling championships.

The top four seeds in each division will host their first round match tonight (Wednesday) beginning at 7 p.m. Sussex Central (20-0), the Henlopen North champ, will host Wilmington Charter (4-3). Cape Henlopen is the number two seed in Division I (17-4) and will host St. Georges (9-7) with third seed Caesar Rodney (10-2) taking on Smyrna (9-9). The fourth seed Salesianum (8-3) will host Blue Hen Flight A champion William Penn (13-3).

Three-time defending Division II state champions Caravel Academy (7-5) will host Blue Hen Flight B champion McKean (10-3). Delaware Military Academy earned the two seed and will host Red Lion Christian Academy (4-4). Three seed Tower Hill (13-3) will host Lake Forest (9-7), while fourth seed St. Mark's (9-2) will host Henlopen South champion Laurel (8-4).

All first round matches will begin at the 175-pound weight class. The winners tonight will advance to the state semifinals which will be held at Smyrna High School on Saturday.

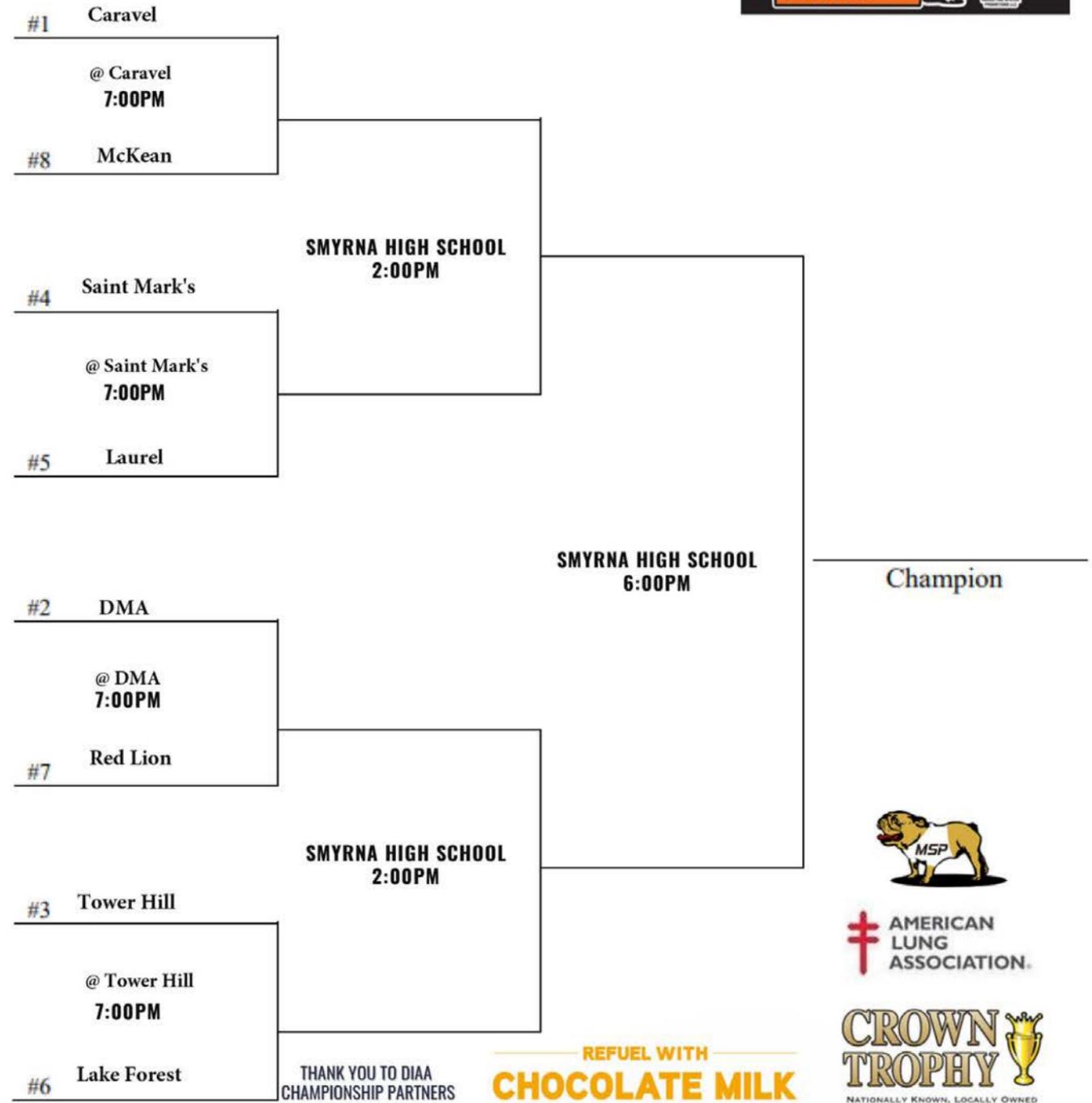
The Division II matches will begin at 2 p.m. with the Division I matches beginning at 4 p.m. The state championship matches in both divisions will begin at 6 p.m.



## 2023 DIAA DUAL-TEAM (D2) WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIP



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15 QUARTERFINALS      SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18 SEMIFINALS      SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18 FINALS



# HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL, WRESTLING RANKINGS: WEEK 9

BY NICK HALLIDAY

# DELAWARE **LIVE** SPORTS TOP 10 RANKINGS

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

# 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)**



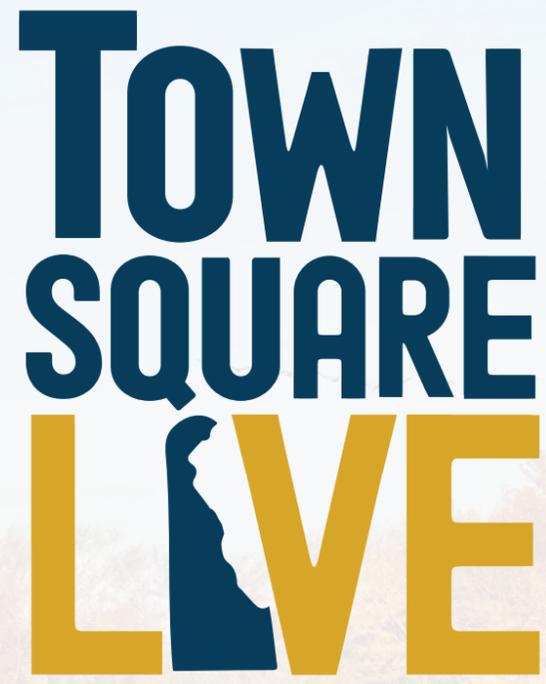
**[facebook.com/townsquarelive/](https://www.facebook.com/townsquarelive/)**



**Watch Delaware Live on YouTube!**



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



 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 2023 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*

