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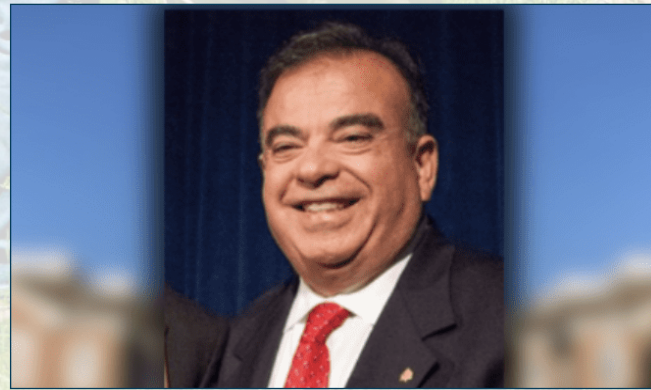


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Ladybug Music Fest Welcomes International Musicians



Orlando J. "Lonnie" George, Jr. Dies at 79



New Charter School Boosts Enrollment



photo link: The Ladybug Music Festival



*Community*

**TOWN SQUARE LIVE**





# WOMEN-LED LADYBUG FEST WELCOMES INTERNATIONAL MUSICIANS

BY JAREK RUTZ

After a decade of performances, an all-female music festival in downtown Wilmington meant to support women in the industry is getting an international twist.

For the first time since its inception in 2012, Delaware's [Ladybug Music Festival](#) will have three performances from musicians outside the U.S.

Canada's [Rose Cora Perry & the Truth Untold](#), France's [Laura Bourgeois](#) and Ireland's [Screaming Orphans](#) will take the stage.

"We are excited that our reach is becoming much larger than just Delaware," said Gayle Dillman, chief executive officer of [Gable Music Ventures](#), a Delaware music business that organizes the festival each year.

Rose Cora Perry and her band are from London, Ontario. She said being the first international band booked for Ladybug is a really cool honor and said she's excited to rock out with Delawareans Friday.

"We love playing the states, we play the states quite frequently," Perry said, "and we came across the Milford Ladybug Music Festival and applied just on a whim last year." Her and her band members never played in Delaware and figured it would be nice to try a new location, so they first played at the Milford event last year.

After going through the farmland and plains of rural Delaware and performing at the Milford show, Cora Perry said she eventually knew that "Delaware rocks."

She's the songwriter, singer and guitarist, and joined by her drummer and partner Tyler Randall as well as Jessie Taynton, who is the bassist and does backup vocals when they're touring and playing live shows. After enjoying the Milford experience, the band was invited to the flagship festival in Wilmington.

Besides the big milestone of bringing international talent in, the festival doesn't have too many changes—just the usual attraction of a completely free experience with music for the whole family, food and drink vendors galore, and a handful of different stages to listen to women jam out.

"We're getting a lot of great support from all over the region, so it's exciting to see people really engaging in what we're doing with our messaging of supporting women in the music industry and trying to address the issues of gender and inequities in the music business," Dillman said.

There's a new "Ladybug Brew" alcoholic drink feature this year, courtesy of [Wilmington Whiskey Club](#).

The festival started in 2012 in Wilmington and has taken place in both Wilmington and the town of Milford for about half of the years it's operated. Another change this year: Ladybug has expanded to Old Ellicott City, MD.

About 4,000 people pack the streets for each festival. This year, it will only be in Wilmington and Old Ellicott City. Wilmington's show is Friday, May 31, and lasts from about 4:15 p.m. to 10:15 p.m.

[CLICK TO READ MORE](#)





# WITH CANCER A FAMILY FOE, KAREN LAITMAN FOUND HELP AT DBCC

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

Karen Laitman’s mother, grandmother, sister and maternal aunt all were diagnosed with breast cancer. Her mother, Elinor, died from it at the age of 56 in 1990. Her grandmother was diagnosed when she was 100, and the family doesn’t know how much of a factor it was in her death at 102.

It’s a genetic curse that follows their heritage. They are **Ashkenazi Jews**, a group that carries the BRAC1 gene mutation that often leads to triple negative breast cancer, a beast to fight, and ovarian cancer.

After their mother died, Karen and her sister, Melissa, were faithful about getting annual mammograms to try to catch the illness early. Then Melissa was diagnosed with cancer in 2006. Karen turned to the **Delaware**

**Breast Cancer Coalition** for help in understanding what was happening to her sister and how to help.

“DBCC had a survivor support group that provided information and education,” she said. “For example, what to expect with chemotherapy and tips on how to cope with treatment, as well as emotional support for families and loved ones.”

In 2007, Karen was tested for the BRAC1 gene and discovered she had it, which by then was no surprise. More people diagnosed with that gene proactively have surgery to remove their breasts, ovaries and often their uterus.

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## EPA PUBLIC NOTICE

### Record of Decision Now Available Standard Chlorine of Delaware, Inc. Superfund Site

The Record of Decision (ROD) for the groundwater contamination cleanup at the **Standard Chlorine of Delaware, Inc. Superfund Site** in New Castle County, Delaware is now available for the public to review. The ROD documents the final selected cleanup for the groundwater, including an expansion of the current pump and treat system to reach groundwater in different areas of the site at different depths, maintenance of the underground clay barrier that contains contaminated groundwater for treatment, and continued institutional controls that prevent human consumption of the groundwater from the site.

Throughout much of the site, pools of contamination are dispersed and deep below the ground surface and a technical impracticability water (TI Waiver) is in place for those portions of the site. A TI Waiver identifies certain spots throughout the site that will not meet cleanup standards because there is no available treatment technology to fully clean up the contamination in those areas.

The Record of Decision is available at the following locations:

1. **Online:** <https://www.epa.gov/superfund/standardchlorine>
2. **Delaware Public Library:** 250 Fifth Street Delaware City, DE 19706
3. **EPA Region 3 Office:** 1600 John F. Kennedy Boulevard Philadelphia, PA 19103  
*Please call 215-814-5000 to schedule an appointment.*

**Questions? Contact:**

Renata Thakurdyal  
Community Involvement Coordinator  
215-814-2745  
thakurdyal.renata@epa.gov





# 25+ FREE OUTDOOR MOVIES THIS SUMMER—BRING THE FAMILY

BY JAREK RUTZ

No need to skip stunning summer sunsets and breezy nights for stuffed dark theaters or living rooms with the abundance of outdoor movies throughout Delaware over the next few months. Here are some cinematic experiences outside for the whole family in the First State this summer:

### **Bethany Beach**

The **Movies on the Beach** series is back this summer at Bethany Beach and Bandstand. Chairs and blankets should be brought and movies will start at dusk. From June to August, Movies on the Beach are shown on Monday nights and in September, Movies on the Bandstand are shown Friday nights. All are free to attend. This year's films are:

- June 3 – Under the Boardwalk
- June 10 – The Little Mermaid (2023 version)
- June 17 – The Game Plan
- June 24 – Elemental
- July 1 – Camp Hideout
- July 8 – Gran Turismo
- July 15 – Ruby Gillman, Teenage Kraken
- July 22 – Wonka
- July 29 – Miracle
- August 5 – Wish
- August 12 – Shazam
- August 19 – Migration
- August 26 – Lyle, Lyle Crocodile
- September 13 – Barbie

- September 20 – Arthur the King
  - September 27 – Princess Diaries
- Dewey Beach**

**Monday Movie Nights** at Dewey kicks off in mid-June. Cash-only purchases for snacks are available, as well as glow sticks. Parking is free as are the movies, which begin at sunset and wrap up around 10:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. Attendees should bring a blanket, chair and a sweatshirt or blanket for the chilly beach nights.

This year's movies are:

- June 17 – Minions: The Rise of Gru
- June 24 – Under The Boardwalk
- July 1 – National Treasure
- July 8 – Wish
- July 15 – Back To The Future
- July 22 – The Super Mario Bros Movie
- July 29 – The Little Mermaid (2023 version)
- August 5 – Turning Red
- August 12 – Elemental
- August 19 – Ruby Gillman, Teenage Kraken

### **Southside Baptist Church**

The church located off of South Dupont Highway in Dover is having three outdoor movies this summer. Blankets and chairs are recommended.

- June 7 at 7 p.m. – Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem
- July 6 at midnight – Trolls: World Tour
- August 3 at midnight – Jesus Revolution

*If your group or organization is hosting outdoor movies and are not on this list, please contact reporter Jarek Rutz via email at [jarek@delawarelive.com](mailto:jarek@delawarelive.com) to have them added.*







# BELLEVUE STATE PARK RENOVATING SIGNATURE OVAL TRACK

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

Renovation of the signature oval track at **Bellevue State Park** will “replace numerous stormwater pipes under the track, regrade and resurface the track with similar stonedust surfacing,” according to a sign posted at the North Wilmington park.

The \$1.1 million project started in early May and should be done by August, according to Shauna McVey, a spokeswoman for the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, which includes the state park system.

The project is intended to “improve drainage of the track and adjacent areas in the park affected by culvert pipes under the track,” she said. “It will also improve the surface of the track.” It is not being done to address any stormwater/flooding concerns outside the park.

The **Friends of Bellevue Park** are also repairing and updating the exercise stations, Wil Yu wrote on the park’s Facebook page.

“Visitors should expect periodic partial closures and general construction impacts,” the sign at the site continues. Another nearby sign is at the ready for when parts of the track is closed.

A thread on Nextdoor.com generated multiple comments about the loss of trees in the area.

“The tree removal is related to clearing approximately 1,200 linear feet of an existing drainage swale on the outside of the southernmost corner of the Bellevue Track,” McVey said. “Only young trees and brush that have grown up in that swale will be removed. Efforts will be made to work around and save large trees in that area. No tree plantings are part of the plan.

“Areas disturbed during construction will be restored,” she said. “No other landscaping is part of the project.”

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# FOR VERIFIED FUN, CHECK OUT PARK SUPERINTENDENTS' PICKS

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

Delaware State Parks in 2022 drew eight million visitors, lured by the sand and the surf, the flora and the fauna, the past and the participatory sports and other activities and events that don't make alliterative pairs. But wait, there's more! Park superintendents promote a wide variety of "superintendent's picks" on the homepages of most of the 17 state parks. Parks charge entrance fees March 1 through Nov. 1. Here's what they're highlighting, in alphabetical order.

### Alapocas Run State Park

The park hosts Delaware's only natural rock climbing wall. Park staffers offer top-rope climbing programs, and climbers can venture out on their own as well. The wall is in Wilmington on the Brandywine, just east of where the Northern Delaware Greenway hits the water. Free permits are required and the park warns that

"climbing is an inherently dangerous activity."

### Auburn Valley State Park

The Marshall family is best known for the world's largest operating collection of Stanley Steamer cars, and the superintendent's pick highlights another aspect of the family: the Marshall Brothers Paper Mill, which "in its undisturbed condition complements the Queen Anne mansion and surrounding estate," near Yorklyn. The mill, on Benge Road, made paper from 1890 to the 2000s. The park plans for it to be "rehabilitated into a museum space."

### Bellevue State Park

The superintendent suggests packing a lunch and enjoying the grounds of this former du Pont family estate, "an outstanding example of leisured life in the Gilded Age" in the middle of suburban North Wilmington.

William du Pont Jr., the estate's last owner and an avid equestrian, transformed the land to include horse stables, indoor horse training facilities and most notably a 1 1/8-mile horse track. His home, Bellevue Hall, is available for rentals and is surrounded by his collection of trees from around the world and 12 more structures that kept the estate self-sustaining. Picnic pavilions and tables are inside and near the track, with the most direct access to that part of the park off Philadelphia Pike.

### Cape Henlopen State Park

The 3.2-mile accessible Gordons Pond trail offers "stunning views of the park's dynamic coastal habitats, including dunes, forests and wetlands," the superintendent writes. Visitors can hike or bike across the elevated boardwalk and look for wildlife along the trail. The trail hugs the western edge of the pond to start, and it also connects to the Biden Center near the northern end. The trailhead is the Gordons Pond parking lot, just north of Rehoboth Beach.

### Delaware Seashore State Park

The North Inlet Day Area beach in the park is one of the few designated areas in Delaware for surfing. The beach is just north of the Indian River Inlet bridge, north of Bethany Beach.

### Fenwick Island State Park

Naturalists lead evening adventures to look for ghost crabs. Ghost crabs are active on coastal beaches from spring through autumn, according to [ChesapeakeBay.net](http://ChesapeakeBay.net). "These crabs are able to change their coloring to match their surroundings, making them less vulnerable to predators." The park is north of Fenwick Island.

CLICK TO READ MORE



photo credit: Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce



*Business*

**TOWN SQUARE LIVE**





# EDGE REACHES MILESTONE WITH 100 SMALL BUSINESS GRANTS

BY BETSY PRICE

A Delaware Division of Small Business program that gives small business grants to start or grow has awarded cash to 100 businesses in its first five years. The **EDGE** competition—short for Encouraging Development, Growth and Expansion competition—reached that milestone May 23, when it gave money to 10 small businesses in the first of its biannual awards. In total, the program has given out \$6.51 million in a 3-to-1 match with the companies.

Those businesses who won an award May 23 included a company working treat severe allergic disease and cancer, a Wilmington company developing an app to

teach baseball to inexperienced and underserved children, a company in Seaford looking to expand deliveries of their pies, and a Dover group opening a second location for counseling families facing infertility.

“Each awardee today, and each applicant who applied, had a story to tell about how they want to make our state,” said **Division of Small Business** Director Regina Mitchell, “and the lives of the people who live here, better and easier through their proposals.”

Deputy Secretary of State Kristopher Knight said small businesses create economic diversity in the state by helping create new industries and markets, “not to

mention trying new ideas which can spur development of new products and services, shining a spotlight on the place we call home.”

Businesses that are less than seven years old and employ no more than 10 full-time employees (or equivalents), are eligible to apply for an EDGE grant. The grants are awarded through a competitive selection process. After thorough internal review, 14 finalists were selected to pitch their proposals to an outside expert panel of judges. Ten companies are selected each round for awards. Each spring and fall, five STEM-based companies each receive up to \$100,000 for eligible expenses while five Entrepreneur Class businesses each receive up to \$50,000.

“I’ve been impressed every year with the innovation and creativity of business owners across the state, and what EDGE grant winners have done with their awards to advance their business,” said Gov. John Carney.

The application period for the next round of the EDGE program will open in August.

Businesses can spend EDGE grant funds on expenses that help improve the company’s long-term chances of success, such as a marketing campaign to help acquire more customers or purchasing a needed piece of equipment that can increase production capacity.

One hundred twenty businesses applied for funding in February, 97 in the entrepreneur category and 23 in the STEM category. Fourteen finalists gave public presentations in early May at the Sussex County Emergency Operations Center.

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# GOODWILL'S GLASS PULVERIZER WILL HELP IT GET INTO THE SAND BUSINESS

from **Truist Charitable Foundation** to the Goodwills of Delaware and Delaware County, Baltimore and the District of Columbia.

The money also will be used to train all 1,500 of their employees about sustainability. In addition, some staff will be trained to run and maintain the pulverizer, training that could help them earn better jobs elsewhere.

“There could be some really interesting collaborations that would keep this recycled glass here in Delaware and meet some really interesting needs of the community,” said CEO Colleen Morrone, CEO of Goodwill of Delaware and Delaware County.

The nonprofit showed off the pulverizer May 23 at its New Castle Outlet and Recycling Center, partly as a way to thank Truist Financial Corp. for the support. Each of the Goodwills will install a pulverizer.

The Delaware nonprofit, which has an annual budget of \$60 million, spends about \$750,000 on landfill fees for things it cannot sell or find a use for. Part of that has been 177,000 tons of glass that is broken or hasn't sold.

When Goodwill gets its recycling permit from the Delaware Department of Delaware Natural Resources and Environmental Control, the 103-year-old Delaware organization will be able to develop a new business line and perhaps keep the recycled material in Delaware.

“It could be used for landscaping. It can potentially be used in concrete for building,” Morrone said during a tour in January. “We’re looking at some other initiatives

that might be able to use it for some other really, really fun purposes that we’re trying to get over the over the finish line so that we can share them, but they’re too much in the early phase and we don’t want to get out ahead of ourselves.”

Travis Rhodes, regional president for the Delaware Valley, said Truist wants to help build the lives of communities and support sustainability initiatives like Goodwill’s. Sustainability is a trendy buzzword, but ultimately refers to finding practices that prevent the depletion of natural resources through recycling and reusing materials, sometimes in another form.

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BY BETSY PRICE

**Goodwill of Delaware** and Delaware County will continue its march toward increased sustainability with a new industrial glass pulverizer, which will crush broken or unwanted items. The result will be sand or small bits of glass called cullett. The 103-year-old organization will be able to use the \$90,000 machine to develop a new business line, thanks to a \$1 million grant





# WORKFORCE TRAINING GRANT

Our Workforce Training Grant is a matching program that funds specialized training for eligible Delaware companies. This is to create and retain quality jobs, as well as, generate advancement opportunities in Delaware.

- Training programs should be related to new and innovative processes, programs, machinery or technology related upgrades.
- Max grant award is \$100k
- The Division will reimburse up to 50% eligible costs

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



photo link: SoDel Concepts



*Food & Dining*

TOWN SQUARE LIVE





# THREE BEACH RESTAURANTS TO TRY THIS SUMMER

BY BETSY PRICE

Memorial Day weekend may be the traditional start of the summer at the beach, but anyone who lives in coastal Sussex County knows the highways are crowded most of the year. Nevertheless, beach restaurants are gearing up for an onslaught.

According to the tourism group Visit Southern Delaware, dining is the leading visitor activity along the coast, surpassing the allure of the surf and tax-free shopping. I can attest that it's true. I bought a condo so that I could frequently savor the local restaurants—and write about them. Here are some tried-and-true restaurants that I recently revisited.

## LEWES OYSTER HOUSE

Since opening in 2022, [Lewes Oyster House](#) in downtown Lewes has been consistently crowded and now there are a few seats outside on the Second Street sidewalk—first come, first served. However, my favorite spot is at the oyster bar, which boasts a street view.

The oysters are certainly a draw and on my recent visit, we tried the meaty Double D oysters from Delaware Delicious. However, mixologist Sean Norris's creative cocktails and the inclusion of sandwiches and entrees on the dinner menu are equally appealing. If Sean's name sounds familiar, it's because he was previously at Fork & Flask (the old Nage) with Chef Sean Corea and Tom Little, co-owners of the oyster house.

Corea's menu includes raw and prepared oysters, such as the Buffalo Soldier appetizer (\$14), fried oysters crowned with a handful of Gorgonzola and a splash of Crystal Hot Sauce.

Corea's specials are worth a look. Consider rockfish with ramp and ricotta ravioli (\$34). The ravioli with mushrooms—sans the fish—was an appetizer (\$16). Burgers, pasta and roast chicken will delight diners who don't eat seafood.

## MICHY'S AT THE BEACH

Located in a strip mall on Route 1 near Rehoboth Beach, [Michy's](#) has quietly become the locals' gathering spot. You'll surely see Richard Davis and Michel "Michy" McFarland-Davis working the line in the open kitchen and chatting with guests who've become friends. Most of the staff have been working here for some time and have cultivated a following.

Davis doesn't mess with success; dishes such as the iceberg wedge (\$10), horseradish-crusted salmon, rigatoni Bolognese (\$28) and braised short ribs (\$28) have been staples for 10 years. However, the chef features a lengthy list of specials, such as beef tenderloin and halibut. Also, try the poke served in a coconut.

## LA FABLE

Surprisingly, Delaware has few French-inspired restaurants that capture the feeling of Paris. So, [La Fable](#) in downtown Rehoboth Beach stands out, from its ornate ceiling to the bistro chairs.

You'll find the classics at La Fable, including trout almondine with green beans (\$44) and tender duck breast (\$44). But then there are the twists, such as lush lobster and pink shrimp atop a bed of gnocchi (\$44).

The restaurant is part of Megan Kee's coastal culinary empire, which includes nearby [Dalmata Italiano](#), a pizza parlor with a fun La Dolce Vita décor, and [Houston-White Co.](#), a steakhouse. In Lewes, she owns [Bramble & Brine at The Buttery](#), which serves brunch and dinner. All are worth putting on your to-do list.

[CLICK TO READ MORE](#)





## GET A GLIMPSE OF BAR REVERIE'S MAY 29 WINE DINNER

BY PAM GEORGE

Despite the name, a wine dinner is not all about wine; the special events give chefs the chance to think outside their daily menus, which is why they've become so popular. Indeed, featured dishes and ingredients often stray from the restaurant concept. Consequently, it's rare to get a glimpse, let alone a taste, of what the chef is planning.

However, on May 22, I attended a Chef's Table event at **Bar Reverie** in Greenville. Chef Steve Taplin repeated the menu at the Rombauer Wine Dinner on Wednesday, May 29. So, if you're on the fence about going, my experience may influence your decision. At the least, consider booking a Chef's Table at Bar Reverie for your special occasion.

### RELEASING CONTROL

Omakase is a Japanese phrase that means, "I'll leave it up to you." In America, restaurants call it a tasting menu

that consists of several courses—nine, for instance, at **Bardea Steak** in Wilmington. Regardless of the courses, the guests do not choose the selections. (The chefs will typically accommodate people with allergies or dietary restrictions if they know in advance.)

At Bar Reverie, the Chef's Table is a small L-shaped bar in the corner of the dining room that comfortably seats four. On that Wednesday, my partner and I joined two other participants. From my vantage point, I could see the wall on which the restaurant shows classic movies, such as "Breakfast at Tiffany's." So, it was dinner and a show, although we could not hear the sound.

Our attentive server, Normandy-born Bruno Chevrier, poured the wines selected for each course—two for the main course. (The wines for the Chef's Tasting were from different vineyards.)

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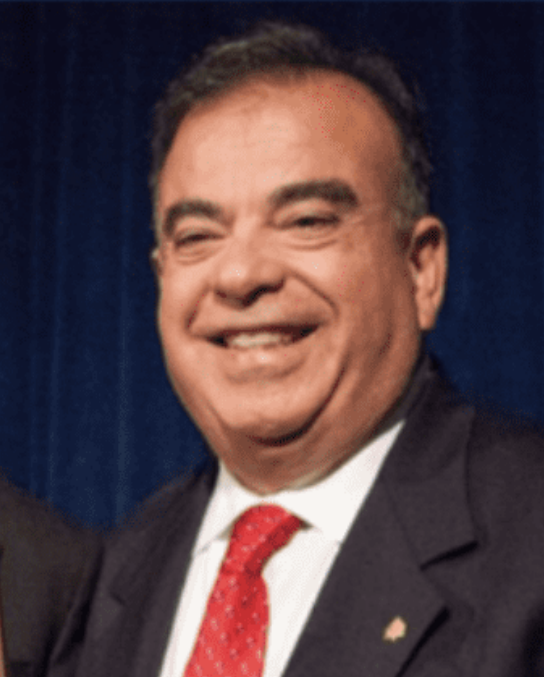
photo link: Town of Newark, Delaware



*Government*

**TOWN SQUARE LIVE**





# FORMER SPEAKER OF HOUSE ORLANDO J. "LONNIE" GEORGE, JR. DIES AT 79

BY JAREK RUTZ

Former Speaker of the House Orlando J. "Lonnie" George, Jr., passed away. In a news release by Delaware House of Representatives Chief Clerk

Richard Puffer, George died on Monday, May 27, at the age of 79.

George, born in Wilmington and graduated from **University of Delaware**, served as a Democrat in the House from 1974 to 1995, representing the 1st District (Wilmington). He held several roles in the General Assembly, including speaker in the early 1980s, Chair of the Joint Finance Committee and House Minority Leader until he resigned his seat in 1995 to become president of **Delaware Technical Community College**.

Before joining the House in 1974, George served on the Wilmington City Council and started teaching math at Del Tech in 1969.

A viewing for George is scheduled for Monday, June 3, from 4 to 8 p.m. in the **Carriage House** at Rockwood Park at 4671 Washington Street Extension in Wilmington. A celebration of his life is scheduled for Thursday, June 6, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Orlando J. George, Jr. cam-

pus at Del Tech (Wilmington).

U.S. Sen. Chris Coons (D-Delaware) released following statement on George's death:

"I am deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Orlando George Jr., known up and down Delaware as Lonnie George. He served Delawareans in many roles: legislatively as a Wilmington City Council member; as state Representative and Co-Chair of the Joint Finance Committee and Speaker of the House; and then in multiple roles helping Delaware Technical Community College rise to its current prominence, ultimately leading the school as president. You cannot overstate the importance of Lonnie's impact on DelTech—how he helped the school lift the Delaware economy and reinforce the First State's workforce. If I knew nothing else of Lonnie, I knew how deeply he loved Delaware and the people in it. His selfless service to our state every day should be a model and inspiration to us all.

While the days ahead will be difficult, I hope memories of Lonnie will help ease some of the pain for his wife, Linda, and four daughters, Melanie, Leana, Natalie, and Oliva. Annie and I will be keeping them in our prayers."



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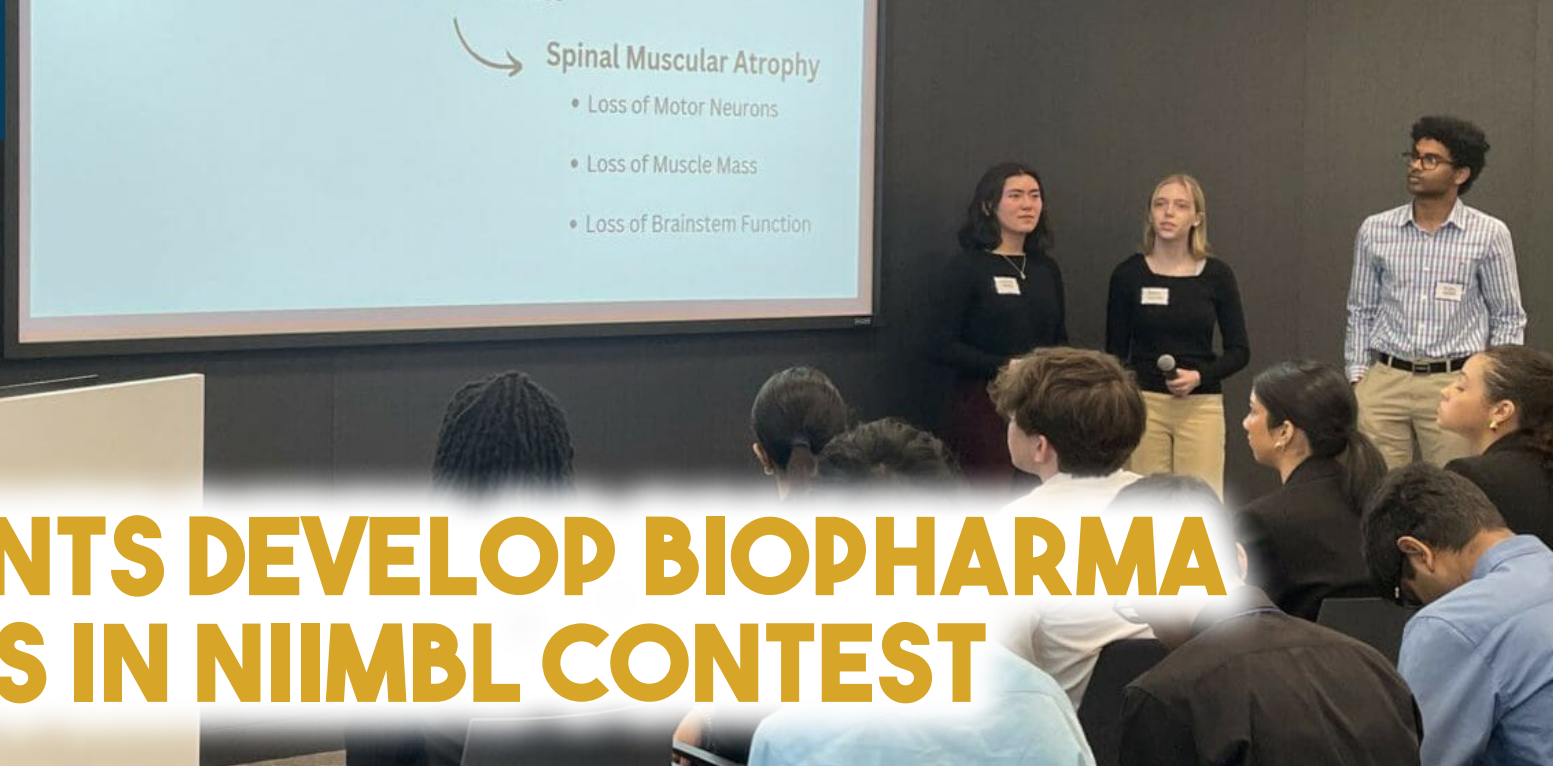
photo credit: Appoquinimink School District



*Education*

TOWN SQUARE LIVE





# 65 STUDENTS DEVELOP BIOPHARMA PRODUCTS IN NIIMBL CONTEST

BY JAREK RUTZ

Students from the **Charter School of Wilmington** said a new partnership with a national biopharmaceutical institute has helped them find their career path of the future.

“Prior to this program, I wasn’t entirely sure what within biology I wanted to focus on for my career and major, but I think this definitely encouraged me to pursue biopharma or biotech, something related to that,” said Arya Gupta, a junior at Wilmington Charter.

Gupta is one of 65 students involved in the **bioLOGIC Program** created by the **National Institute for Innovation in Manufacturing Biopharmaceuticals** (NIIMBL), which is headquartered in Newark on University of Delaware’s campus. In that program, students work in teams of four to six to:

- Identify a real-world problem;
- Conceptualize an advanced product solution;
- Create a business model around the product;

- Build a pitch deck and three to four minute pitch they will deliver to a panel of representatives in a professional-style setting.

Kathie Young, workforce committee coordinator and project manager at NIIMBL, said it’s like a “Shark Tank” for biopharmaceutical products.

“The goal was to get around 20 students, and we had in the first initial meeting over 75 students come, and we ended up taking 65 of those students,” said Michael Valenti, a science teacher and science department chair at the charter who coordinates the partnership.

Students committed to an eight-week process in which they met outside of the school every Monday from 2:15 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.

Wilmington Charter is the only school in Delaware to be part of the bioLOGIC Program, which was also piloted in North Carolina in 2022.

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# DELAWARE COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN ANNOUNCES IT'S CLOSING

BY JAREK RUTZ

The **Delaware College of Art and Design** is closing, it announced May 23 on Facebook and in a letter from its president. It plans to help students transfer to **Pennsylvania College of Art & Design** (PCA&D) and **Moore College of Art & Design**.

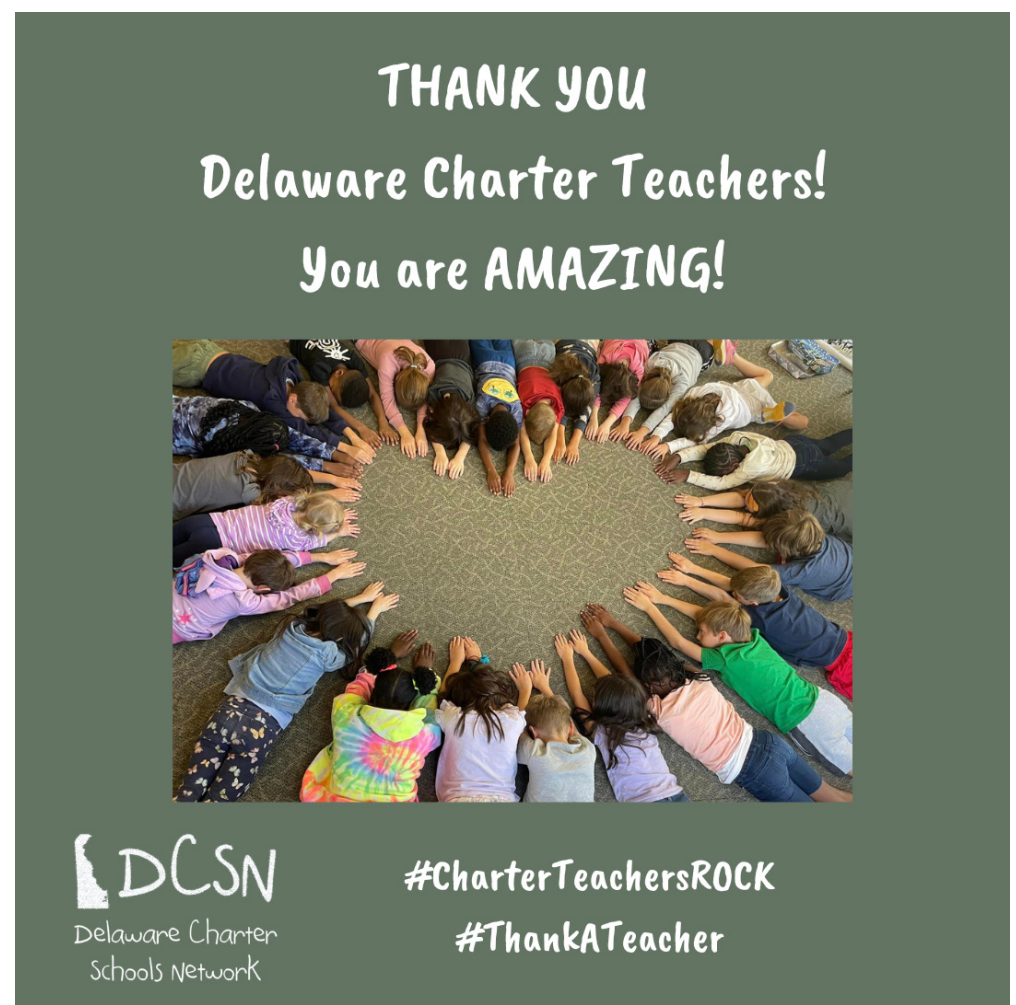
The move comes as a group of downtown leaders are trying to finalize funding to turn a former MBNA bank building into an education hub called The Bridge with law and nursing students, saying it will help create a **“college corridor”** from Rodney Square to the Riverfront, including the art school.

Jean Dahlgren, president of the school, sent a letter to community members saying the entire team is very proud the college’s 27-year history and the news comes with a heavy heart.

“We are working together through this challenging but necessary transition to uphold our legacy and to do what is best for our students,” he said.

Some of the challenges the art school was facing, like many other independent art and design schools, include declining enrollment, a shrinking pool of college-age students, rising costs and unexpected issues with the rollout of the new Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

“We did not make the decision lightly and sought every possible avenue to avoid it,” the letter read. “Our declining enrollment numbers over the last several years and for the upcoming school year, have prevented us from adequately supporting our educational purposes and programs.”



The Board of Trustees has worked diligently to find other funding solutions, Dahlgren said, but none allow the school to overcome the longer-term problem of too few students.

The college’s board of trustees along with Dahlgren are working with the Middle States Commission for Higher Education and the Delaware Department of Education to ensure that the wind-down and eventual closure cause as little disruption as possible for students, alumni and staff.







# NEW SUSSEX CHARTER SCHOOL BOOSTS ENROLLMENT, SET TO OPEN THIS FALL

BY JAREK RUTZ

From delaying opening for a year to having to create a waitlist, it's fair to say that there's a lot of excitement for the state's newest and 24th charter school: the **Bryan Allen Stevenson School Of Excellence** (BASSE). The charter, originally scheduled to open its doors in fall 2023, will be opening fall of this year, school officials confirm.

"We have 206 students across all three grade levels right now," said Chantalle Ashford, BASSE's founder and dean of academic excellence. "We added the eighth grade for this year because we wanted to make sure our families who had intended to come to us for seventh grade would still be accommodated with us this year."

Eventually, the school will become a high school as well by adding a grade level each year with this inaugural group of students. In the 2025-2026 school year, the eighth graders will be the first ninth grade class, in 2026-2027, they will be the first 10th grade class and so forth.

The delay was triggered because state law requires charter schools to have 80% of their authorized enroll-

ment by April 1 to operate the following academic year. For BASSE's original timeline, it only had 124 students enrolled. To get to 80% of the state-authorized 250 students, the school was 76 students shy of the 200 minimum it needed to open. Now, the eighth grade class is completely full, with 50 students.

"We're recruiting across all grade levels, because the first day of school will come around and maybe some families might change their minds and make a different decision," Ashford said, "and so we will also be hosting a waitlist as well."

The sixth grade class has 92 enrolled and the seventh grade class has 64 students. Ashford said the goal, which she expects to achieve, is to get up to 100 students in grades six and seven, and the school's goal for eighth grade has already been met.

Stevenson Charter will join Sussex Academy and Sussex Montessori Public Charter as the three charter schools in Sussex County.

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# MILFORD SCHOOL COUNSELOR NAMED STATE BEHAVIORAL PRO OF YEAR

BY JAREK RUTZ

A school counselor at Mispillion Elementary School in Milford was named the 2024 Delaware Behavioral Health Professional of the Year Monday night.

Shannon Gronau was chosen as the best in the state for her services in improving student mental health, an element of student success that has received a lot of attention since the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Students thrive when they believe in their unique abilities and are given the opportunity to be a role model for younger students,” she said at Monday’s ceremony.

The award honors outstanding service by school employees who are health care practitioners or human service providers, who offer services for the purpose of improving an individual’s mental health. Eligible em-

ployees are school social workers, counselors, psychologists, nurses or licensed clinical social workers.

The award is only in its third year and two of the three winners have been from Milford School District. Rosa DiPiazza from the district won the inaugural award in 2022 and Dana Carey from the Lake Forest School District won last year.

Gronau is in her third year at Milford and has been a school counselor for 12 years.

“Walking the halls, you can see the hugs and waves she receives,” said Ashley Ganley, Gronau’s assistant principal Monday. “The students trust her and confide in her.”

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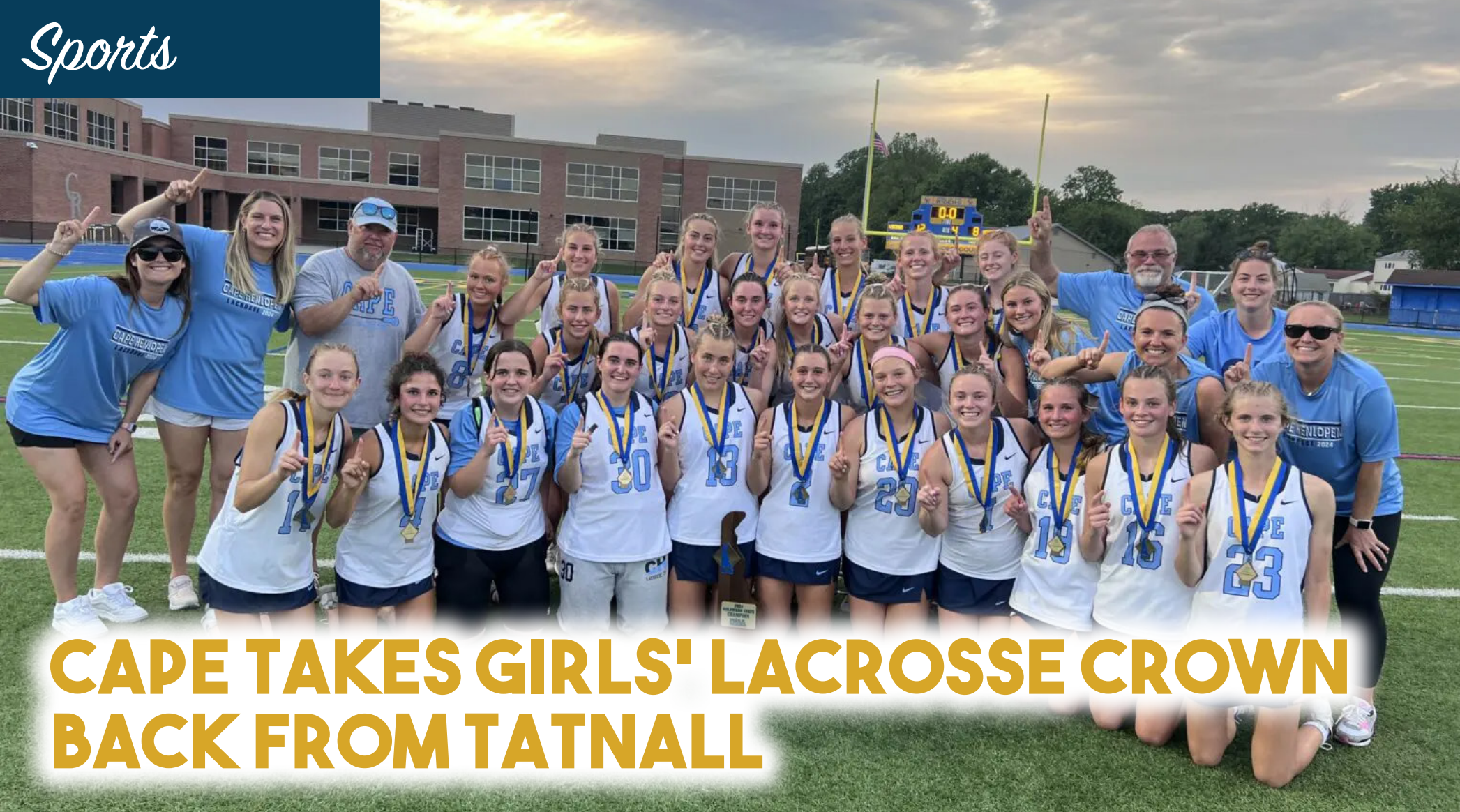
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*Sports*

**TOWN SQUARE LIVE**





# CAPE TAKES GIRLS' LACROSSE CROWN BACK FROM TATNALL

BY NICK HALLIDAY

The Cape Henlopen Vikings girls' lacrosse team defeated the Tatnall Hornets to take back the DIAA girls' lacrosse state championship. Tatnall came into this year as the reigning state champs after beating Cape last year 10-9 at Delaware State University.

Cape took a 4-2 lead in the first quarter and never relinquished the lead. The two teams matched goals in the second quarter at two goals apiece. But a big third quarter by the Vikings put the game away.

Cape scored six goals in the third quarter to take a 12-7 lead that proved to be too much for Hornets. The

Vikings stepped up their defense in the fourth quarter only allowing one goal by the Hornets to hold on for a 12-8 victory.

Cape was led by Louise Rishko and Lindsay D'Am-broggi who each scored three goals each. Claire Lopez and Haley Gamuciello each added two goals apiece.

Tatnall was led by Charlotte Wilkinson who scored three goals.



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# SALESIANUM WINS FIRST BOYS' VOLLEYBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

**BY NICK HALLIDAY**

The Salesianum boys' volleyball defeated Wilmington Charter in three straight sets to win their first ever DIAA boys' volleyball state championship. The Sals lost last season to Cape Henlopen in the inaugural season for the boys' volleyball, but would not be denied this season.

The Sals took over right away just overpowering a talented Force team. Salesianum won 25-17, 25-16 and 25-17 as the Sals completed the season without dropping a set in 16 regular-season matches and four more in the state tournament.

Cody Popp led the way for the Sals, finishing with 13

kills and 12 digs. Reid Maas and Andrew Mahoney had seven kills and nine digs. Libero Aiden Dietrich was solid defensively, leading the way with 28 digs, while Dylan Ortega finished with six blocks. There were no official stats available for the Wilmington Charter Force.





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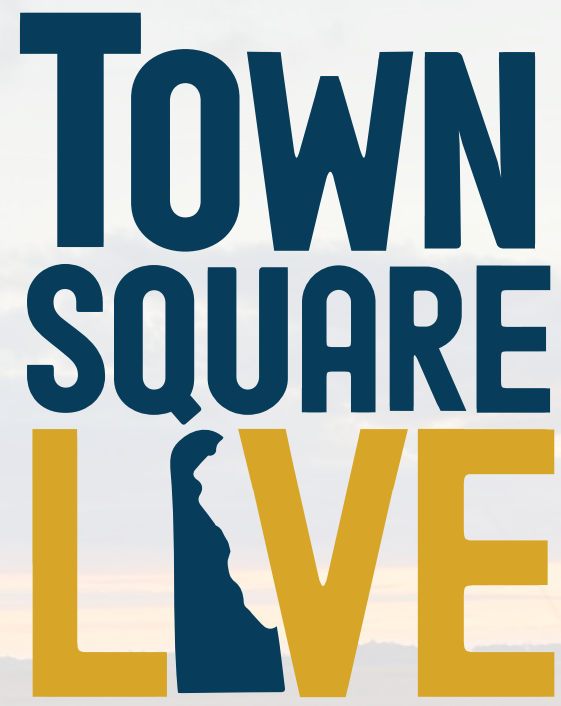


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