

Chamber Connections

Vol. 46 // No. 3

cdcc.net

March 2023



CORNERSTONE MEMBERS
Chesapeake Utilities

PAGE 3



Harrington Raceway and Casino

PAGE 3

IN THIS ISSUE...

Capital Reception

PAGE 6

Home & Garden Show

PAGE 8

Military Affaire

PAGE 12

Attend the CDCC's 22nd Annual 55+ Expo this April 4!



Seniors represent the fastest growing population in Delaware. Generally, the human species is living longer, healthier and happier lives thanks to modern

technology, caregivers and supportive communities. One way the Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce wishes to continue to support this community is by inviting YOU to their 55+ Expo on April 4 at Bally's Dover Resort Casino from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Rollins Center. Check out a variety of vendors ready to help you simplify figuring out the future, while also caring about the needs of the present.

The CDCC's 55+ Expo is highly revered in our community. People from across the region and across state lines

attend the 55+ Expo to learn, engage with their local community and support local businesses. People come to enjoy face-to-face interaction, gain knowledge and support their loved ones as well.

The 55+ Expo will be the perfect opportunity to learn more about how you can support the loved ones in your life and help them maintain active lifestyles of comfort. We all know someone who is "55 and better", and we all could

Continued on Page 7

CDCC's Legislative Luncheon Makes a Mark on March 23



Be sure to register NOW for the Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce's (CDCC) 21st Annual Legislative Luncheon (brought to you by BIG Investment Services) which promises to be a great opportunity to hear about

the latest in terms of what is happening at the 152nd Session of the General Assembly. Attendees can meet some of Central Delaware's senators and representatives and learn about current pieces of legislation that are under consideration, as well as ask questions they may have.

This event will be held on Thursday, March 23, 2023, from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Bally's Dover Casino Resort. Join us and your local legislators for a delicious lunch, an opportunity to

network and catch up with new and familiar faces, and the chance to learn about laws that affect you and your business.

The CDCC understands that the Government and Politics arena can be overwhelming, hard to understand or intimidating. That is why this event is so crucial to our business professionals. This event provides a chance to break

Continued on Page 7

There's A Room for You at the Hampton Inn – Milford!



The Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce (CDCC) invites its members to join us for our monthly Sunset Business Mixer on March 29, 2023, at the Hampton Inn in Milford (100 Lighthouse Estates Drive) from 5 to 7 p.m. Mark your calendars and register now to attend the CDCC's premier networking event! To register, visit the

CDCC website at www.cdcc.net or call (302) 734-7513. The evening promises networking, relationship-building, camaraderie and mutual support of your CDCC members and community.

The CDCC is proud to host this monthly event for members and their friends to provide a place for valuable networking opportunities, friendship, a chance to support local businesses – not to mention prizes, prizes, prizes! This is a wonderful way to experience this local business in way you never have

before. This monthly event is known for bringing the community together in a fun way that allows everyone to help each other grow Central Delaware.

Attend the Sunset Business Mixer at the Hampton Inn to learn about this business and its leadership team. Learn about the amenities, services and offerings of this beautiful hotel in a convenient location. Hampton Inn can be found off Route 1, 10 minutes from

Continued on Page 10

Dina's Digest



PRESIDENT
Dina Vendetti

Community Begins with Connections

Many years ago, I learned a wonderful definition of "community" from a young student teacher. He explained that the experience of "community" looks like this: to know and be known, to love and be loved, to serve and be served, to celebrate and be celebrated. It has been my experience that community is found (and felt) quite easily here in Central Delaware.

That entire illustration of "community" begins with a connection. From that connection, springs the beginning of a relationship where people get to know each other. Opportunities to assist each other come from knowing what others need in order to be successful at what they do. Finally, when that all comes together, there are plenty of reasons to celebrate!

Your Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce is here to assist you in that very first step: making connections. We connect people to information and education. We connect people to their legislators and encourage them to help influence business-friendly legislation. We connect people to a plethora of marketing opportunities. And finally, we connect people to each other.

As you know, we are now in the part of the year that we call "event season." Each month from now through June contains at least one major event! In January, we were thrilled to mix it up with so many of you at the Delaware Agriculture Museum for our CDCC Trifecta (mixer/Member2Member/CDCC Showcase). We were also excited to connect with you at our annual Economic Forecast Breakfast! February brought us the Home & Garden Show, as well as the Military Affairs – both were wonderful opportunities to engage with each other, learn and grow!

This month, we are looking forward to our 21st Annual Legislative Luncheon (March 23). Later this Spring we'll all meet

again over the 55+ Expo (April 4), the Chamber Mini Masters (April 26), the Bluesuiters Golf Tournament (May 11), and our Awards for Excellence Celebration (June 28). And as usual, each month will bring Coffee Coaching, Young Professionals' Events, Member Orientation, Kent County Open for Business, Sunset Business Mixers and much, much more!

These events provide the perfect setting for making those critical connections with fellow Chamber Members. As we come together over and over around a variety of topics, activities and events, those connections will strengthen and develop into partnerships, opportunities for collaboration and avenues for building our community.

In this edition of the aptly named "Chamber Connections," you will discover the details surrounding these events and activities – and we hope that you will call in and register for as many as you can. Sponsoring or participating as an event vendor or exhibitor is a great way to help people connect with you and your business. The more they see your name, the more they'll want to know who you are and what you do. Take advantage of these opportunities when you can and watch the connections in real time, right before your eyes!

To register for any event or to sign up to be a sponsor or vendor, please call the CDCC Office at 302-734-7513, or visit our Calendar of Events at www.cdcc.net.

Communities are composed of people who feel a strong connection to each other. We are excited about the months ahead and about sharing these events and activities with you. We feel a strong connection to you, our members, and look forward to the many chances we get to re-connect with you. Thank you for all the ways you work hard to make Central Delaware a strong and healthy community. We are so grateful to be here with you at the heart of it all!

Calendar of Events

MARCH

- Thursday, March 2**
Leadership Central Delaware
8 am - 5 pm
Public Safety Day
- Thursday, March 2**
Kent County Open for Business
8:30 - 10 am
Kent County Levy Court
- Monday, March 6**
CDCC Executive Committee Mtg.
8 - 10 am
CDCC Conference Room
- Wed, March 8**
Coffee Coaching
8 - 9 am
via Zoom
- Wed, March 8**
Marketing Committee Mtg.
10 - 11 am
CDCC Conference Room & via Zoom
- Thursday, March 9**
Member Orientation
12 - 1:30 pm
via Zoom
- Tuesday, March 14**
CDCC Board Mtg.
7:30 - 8:30 am
Faw Casson
- Tuesday, March 14**
Young Professionals Social
12 - 1 pm
Biggs Museum of American Art
- Tuesday, March 21**
LCD Steering Committee Mtg.
12:30 - 1:30 pm
CDCC Conference Room
- Thu, March 23**
Legislative Luncheon
11 - 1:30 pm
Bally's Dover Casino Resort
- Wed, March 29**
Ambassador Committee Mtg.
4:30 pm
Hampton Inn - Milford
- Wed, March 29**
Sunset Business Mixer
5 - 7 pm
Hampton Inn - Milford

APRIL

- Tuesday, April 4**
21st Annual 55+ Expo
9 am - 3 pm
Bally's Dover Casino Resort
- Thursday, April 6**
Leadership Central Delaware
8 am - 5 pm
Health and Human Services Day
- Friday, April 7**
Good Friday
Office Closed
- Tuesday, April 11**
CDCC Board Mtg.
7:30 - 8:30 am
Faw Casson
- Wednesday, April 12**
Coffee Coaching
8 - 9 am
via Zoom
- Wednesday, April 12**
Marketing Committee Mtg.
10 - 11 am
CDCC Conference Room & via Zoom
- Thursday, April 13**
Member Orientation
8:30 - 10 am
via Zoom
- Tuesday, April 18**
LCD Steering Committee Mtg.
12:30 - 1:30 pm
CDCC Conference Room
- Wednesday, April 26**
Ambassador Committee Mtg.
3:30 pm
Tre Sorelle Dolce Ice Cream & Mini Golf
- Wednesday, April 26**
The Chamber Mini Masters / Sunset Business Mixer
4 - 7 pm
Tre Sorelle Dolce Ice Cream & Mini Golf
- TBD**
LCD Class of 2023 Invitational
5 - 7 pm

Published monthly by the Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce, the first accredited Chamber of Commerce in Delaware. We represent the interests of the small business community. Over 800 businesses support CDCC.

OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Board Chairperson** Brian J. Stetina, Faw Casson
- First Vice Chairperson** Dana F. Wattay, Wattay Accounting
- Vice Chair, Economic Development** Konrad LaPrade, Delaware State News
- Vice Chair, Organizational Development** Jesse C. Keleher, Harrington Raceway & Casino
- Vice Chair, Community Affairs** Dr. Cornelia Johnson, Delaware Technical Community College
- Vice Chair, Legislative Affairs** C. Scott Kidner, C.S. Kidner Associates/Capitol Strategies
- Vice Chair, Military Affairs** Evans Armantrading, Jr., CNU Fit, LLC
- Treasurer** Richard A. Mohnk, Bayhealth Medical Center- Kent Campus
- Vice Chair Smyrna/Clayton** Lincoln D. Willis, The Willis Group, LLC
- Past Chairperson** Shane E. Breakie, Chesapeake Utilities

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Kim I. Adams, Mountain Consulting, Inc.
- H. Scott Connell, Merrill Lynch/Bank of America
- Denée Crumrine, Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield Delaware
- Travis Frey, Dover Federal Credit Union
- S. Ryan Halpern, Eye Specialists of DE
- Timothy R. Horne, Dover International Speedway
- Kevin Mills, Kraft Heinz
- Nick Polcino, Bally's Dover Casino Resort
- Javier Santana, High Ground Creative, LLC
- Charmaine A. Whyte, Delaware State University

POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to Chamber News,
435 N. DuPont Highway,
Dover, DE 19901

HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS AND GUESTS

- Robin R. Christiansen, Mayor, City of Dover
- Col. Matthew S. Husemann, Commander, 436th Airlift Wing
- Hon. G. Jody Sweeney, Commissioner, Kent County Levy Court

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

- Dina C. Vendetti, President
- Cristal R. Brennehan, Executive Assistant & Director of Special Events
- Cindy A. Friese, Assistant for Special Events and Sponsorships
- Cleo D. Bell, Director of Marketing, Communications, and LCD
- Jennifer L. Sutter, Director of Membership Sales and Retention
- Martha L. Lehman, Administrative Assistant

CDCC CONSULTANT

Judy Diogo, Past President

MEMBER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE UNITED STATES.
CHAMBER CONNECTIONS PRODUCTION AND LAYOUT BY: DELAWARE STATE NEWS

Thank you to the CDCC Cornerstone Members!

CORNERSTONE MEMBERSHIP
Est. 2013

An Industry Exclusive CDCC Marketing Package!



435 N. DuPont Highway, Dover, DE 19901
P: 302.734.7513 E: info@cdcc.net
www.cdcc.net

The CDCC is THE essential resource for the development of businesses in Central Delaware.

CREDIBLE

ENGAGED

CORNERSTONE
MEMBERSHIP

RESOURCEFUL

RELEVANT

Chesapeake Utilities: Natural Gas is a Smart Choice for a Sustainable Future

Natural gas is one of the earth's cleanest and most versatile fossil fuels and an essential part of America's energy mix, supplying nearly a quarter of all the energy in the United States. The natural gas industry is also instrumental in helping achieve the country's climate change goals while maintaining energy reliability, safety and affordability.

At this moment, somewhere in the U.S., a home or business is signing up for natural gas service. According to the American Gas Association, an average of one new customer and 80 new businesses begin new natural gas service every minute nationwide. Those numbers rise yearly, making natural gas an indispensable part of our lifestyles. At Chesapeake Utilities Corporation, our customer additions have consistently ranked well above national average growth rates.

America's abundant natural gas resources and our extensive infrastructure base are able to satisfy the domes-

tic energy demand while keeping prices affordable for decades. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, proved reserves of natural gas increased by 32% in the United States in 2021.

Gas utilities are also well positioned to serve customers reliably because the natural gas distribution system's physical characteristics provide stability. Pipeline infrastructure is underground, protected from many major disruptive events, and much of the natural gas delivery system runs on its own supply and is not grid-dependent.

A 2022 Department of Energy study confirms that natural gas is 3.4 times more affordable than electricity, and significantly more affordable than several other energy sources for the same amount of energy delivered. Households that use natural gas for heating, cooking and clothes drying save an average of \$1,068 per year compared to homes using electricity for those applications.

Emissions from natural gas distribution systems in the United States have dropped 69% since 1990 through new and modernized infrastructure and advanced technologies. The American Gas Association reports carbon dioxide emissions from residences using natural gas as being about 22% lower than those attributable to an all-electric home.

America's natural gas utilities are committed to increased reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Not only are they reducing operational emissions, but they are also helping customers reduce their impact on the environment. Renewable natural gas, a carbon-neutral fuel derived from organic waste or other renewable sources, is being developed as one option to lower household emissions.

Natural gas fuels our economy in many ways, including by providing good-paying jobs to hard-working Americans. Statistics from the Center for Energy Workforce Development



show that more than 3.4 million jobs are connected to the natural gas industry in the United States.

Chesapeake Utilities Corporation is dedicated to delivering energy that drives progress and makes life better for the people and communities we serve. For all of the reasons listed above, natural gas is a smart choice that contributes to a sustainable future. Visit chpk.com to learn how we can fuel your future.

Harrington Raceway and Casino Donates to Ronald McDonald House

Harrington Raceway and Casino recently presented checks from the proceeds of annual donation drives to a pair of local non-profit organizations known for their work with children in Make-A-Wish Delaware and Ronald McDonald House of Delaware (RMDH).

Checks were presented for \$18,509 to Make-A-Wish from their Nov. 5 fundraiser and \$14,701 to RMDH from their Dec. 18 donation drive in the gold room of the casino.

"Make-A-Wish is thrilled to partner with Harrington Raceway and Casino again on a successful donation drive," said Cara Feldman, Vice President of Development of Make-A-Wish Philadelphia, Delaware & Susquehanna Valley. "The impact of the wish journey for a child is forever lifechanging, providing hope and strength. We are thankful to Harrington Raceway and Casino for their support as it

is instrumental in helping to grant transformational wishes for children in Delaware."

Feldman and RMDH's Southern Delaware Advancement Officer, Jan Shallcross, accepted checks on behalf of the respective organizations.

Harrington Raceway and Casino's COO of Hospitality Hank Rosenberg is active with both organizations, serving on the advisory board for RMDH and is formerly on the Board of Directors for Make-A-Wish and recently celebrated 25 years as a volunteer.

"I am so fortunate to have been involved with both these organizations for such a long time and to work for a company that believes so strongly about giving back to the community," said Rosenberg. "We have been doing this promotion for both organizations for a number of years and have raised over \$100,000 cumulatively for each to help support their wonderful causes."

RMDH of Delaware is known for its service to families with seriously ill children by enabling access to medical care and a facility that offers comfort, hope and togetherness. To learn more about RMDH, please visit www.rmdh-de.org.

Make-A-Wish (www.wish.org) provides life-changing wishes for children with critical illness.



Durham, Make-A-Wish's VP of Development Cara Feldman, Rosenberg and Sparacino.



Harrington Raceway and Casino's Players Club Manager Joanne Durham; RMDH's Southern Delaware Advancement Officer Jan Shallcross; Harrington Raceway and Casino's COO of Hospitality Hank Rosenberg; and Harrington Raceway and Casino's Director of Public Relations Matt Sparacino.

The LCD Class of 2023 Gets Their Voice Heard at Legislative Hall!

Do you remember the Schoolhouse Rock! video “I’m Just a Bill”? That 1976 video was among the most popular of the Saturday morning cartoon shorts. How many of us can still sing the lyrics? The wonderful thing about “I’m Just a Bill” is that it is indeed accurate, even in the midst of fun and animation. The cartoon made it easy for people of all ages to understand the legislative process.

On Feb. 2, 2023, Leadership Central Delaware (LCD) Class of 2023, engaged in Government and Politics Day. Our Leadership Central Delaware class learned about how the government works and how a bill becomes a law. The day began at the Legislative Hall House Hearing Room with a continental breakfast prepared by La Baguette Bakery and Catering.

Delaware laws were first established by its 1897 constitution. On the federal level, Delaware’s U.S. senators are Tom Carper(D) and Chris Coons (D), and Delaware’s single U.S. representative is Lisa Blunt-Rochester (D).

On the state level, the first guest speakers of the day were Rep. Danny Short (39th district) and Scott Kidner with C.S. Kidner and Associates, who spoke about the Delaware Division of Small Business, part of the Department of State, a service-focused agency committed to supporting businesses starting and growing in Delaware. Small businesses can reach out to the Division for assistance in connecting to the resources and advice to succeed.

Short emphasized relationships and clear in-person communication: “Without relationships, everything comes to a screeching halt, the truth is the most important thing in this building. It holds a lot of emotion.” Kidner added, “If you as business owners do not get engaged and be here in this building, you cannot expect things to be taken care of for you.” Both stressed the importance of being present, getting your voice heard, and attending Legislative Hall meetings.

Next, LCD classmates took a guided tour of Legislative Hall led by Tom from First State Heritage Park. The Legislative Hall is quaint and beautiful on the inside, with portraits of famous Delawareans and important moments in Delaware history (the exterior is currently under renovation). The House and Senate chambers are

on either end of the building, with first-floor chambers and offices and second-floor guest balconies overlooking the chambers.

Next, it was time for two intense hot topic roundtable discussions! First, the class addressed Electric Vehicles – the Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) regulations. Speakers presenting this topic were Angela Marconi, Director of Air Quality at DNREC, and Charlie Burton of i.g. Burton & Company car dealerships. The Division of Air Quality monitors and regulates all emissions to the air. It issues permits to construct to operate air contaminant sources; maintains emissions inventories from business and industry; develops the State implementation plan as required by the Clean Air Act; and adopts new regulations and supports enforcement of existing regs.

Delaware is taking new steps to increase electric vehicle inventory at car dealerships. Delaware is joining 13 other states in adopting Zero Emission Vehicle Regulation. That means a certain percentage of vehicles a manufacturer delivers to the state for sale must be electric. The percentage would be based on average annual sales. The requirement means consumers won’t need to go out of state to buy an electric vehicle and it advances the state’s efforts to address climate change. Students were highly engaged, firing pertinent questions about this new proposal, which will affect the state greatly in a short amount of time. The next step is to launch an educational campaign to dispel common misconceptions. There are people who feel like it’s going to impact the type of cars that are available or that cars people don’t want, and dealers can’t sell, are going to be foisted upon them. A rapid shift by the auto industry could lead to job losses and business failures in related areas. At the same time, the move to electric cars will spark a boom in areas like battery manufacturing, mining and charging stations.

To borrow a phrase from Thomas Edison, “What consumers and the climate need are commitments that are 1 percent inspiration, and 99 percent perspiration.” Strong aspirations are important and inspirational, but firm production plans and strong policies are what move the market and the climate. These thought-provoking topics gave the class and everyone in

the room much to mull over.

As the LCD class enjoyed a deliciously fresh lunch catered by Skyline Café, several legislators took time out of their busy schedules to introduce themselves to the class.

The afternoon session started with the role of Kent County Levy Court presented by Kelly Pitts, Public Information Officer, LCD Class of 2022. Pitts gave a brief overview of the County’s job and current initiatives. The Levy Court is the highest executive power that exists in Kent County, Del. It is charged with overseeing the daily operation of Kent government, property assessment, real estate transfers and granting land applications. It also provides library and ambulance service, in addition to financial assistance to local service organizations. The Levy Court is committed to serving the public and ensuring that the best possible decisions are made for the enhancement of Kent County residents.

Next, Rep. Lyndon D. Yearick (39th district) and Shane Breakie of Chesapeake Utilities presented on the Climate Change Act. The Act, known as the Delaware Climate Change Solutions Act, Senate Bill 305, follows the issuance of Delaware’s Climate Action Plan in 2021 and establishes a statutory requirement of greenhouse gas emissions reductions over the medium and long term to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change due to anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions on the State, establishing a mandatory and regulatory updated plan to achieve those emissions reductions and develop resilience strategies for the State, and requires State agencies to address climate change in decision-making and



rule-making. The class, yet again, had relevant questions for the professionals which contributed to a fruitful and educational dialogue.

Legislation is important for several reasons, including setting standards and controls to govern the actions of people and groups in the public and private spheres. Legislation is valuable to setting societal standards and norms at all levels of government, including the local, state, and national level. It is used to regulate activities, authorize certain actions, supply resources such as funding, implement sanctions and permit or deny certain activities. Legislation is one of three primary functions of government; legislators create legislation, which is then interpreted by individuals in the judicial branch, and set into law through the executive branch. “It’s not over until the final gavel strikes, it’s a world of compromise and negotiation here,” according to Judy Diogo, CDCC Consultant, and lobbyist.

Co-chairs Judy Diogo and Janie Libby, LCD Steering Committee Chair (LCD Class of 2012), presented the CDCC’s role in legislation. Most business owners are involved in the rigors of day-to-day management, so there is little time to stay abreast of new and/or changing legislation – or to fully grasp the impact that developing laws can have on businesses. Two lobbyists,



Scott Kidner, Chair of CDCC Legislative Affairs, and Judy Diogo work on behalf of CDCC, reviewing and critiquing potential effects of legislation at all levels and alert business owners on impending changes. The CDCC is currently tracking 17 legislative bills. Lobbying is a government relationship, consisting of individuals and organizations engaged in promoting the interests of employees or clients.

Finally, the CDCC Class of 2023 made the most of an opportunity to participate in a mock City Council Hearing in the council chambers accompanied by Dover Mayor Robin Christiansen. They were given homework to study their roles in a hypothetical, but highly likely situation. The class did a wonderful job keeping their composure while taking the podium to get their opinions heard. Kudos to the LCD Class of 2023 for knocking this exercise out of the park!

Government and Politics Day was packed with thought provoking discussion and legislative activities. The class learned so much about their local government and how they can get involved in creating real change in their communities. Respect, credibility, and character were the day's leadership traits, which the class and speakers exemplified wholeheartedly. The CDCC would like to thank the day's speakers, hosts, volunteers and everyone involved in making Government and Politics an amazing success!



Leadership Deep Dive: "It's Your Ship"

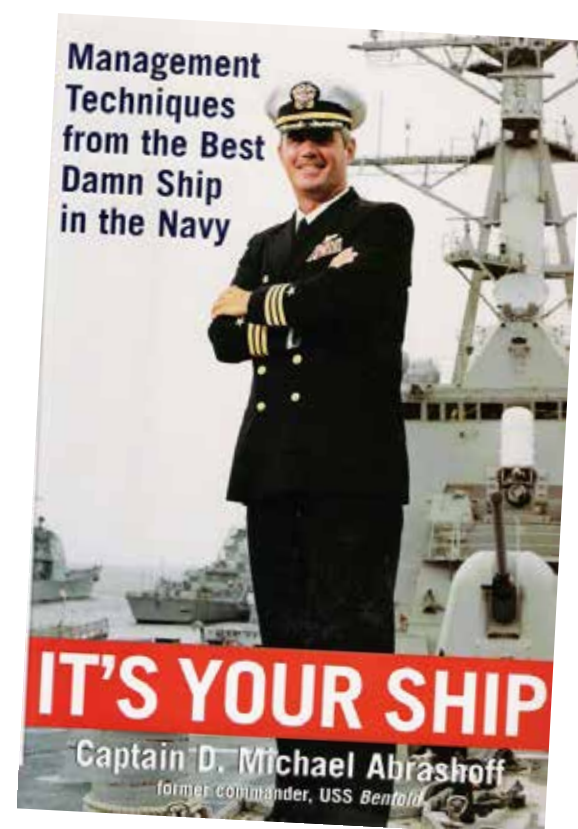
The Leadership Central Delaware Class of 2023 is in full swing and more than halfway through their 10-month program together! A requirement of the program is to collectively read a book about leadership together: "It's Your Ship: Management Techniques from the Best Damn Ship in the Navy."

This is such a fitting story for this group of 28 leaders because it written by, and centered around, Capt. D. Michael Abrashoff and his command of USS Benfold. He upholds the action of top-down change that can be applicable to business and work-related teams. Capt. Abrashoff led his team, deemed the 'worst ship in the navy,' to become one of the best. He created a confident crew who trusted him to lead them to be "problem-solvers eager to take the initiative and take responsibility for their actions," reads the Amazon synopsis.

During each meeting, classmates take turns leading the discussion on the two chapters assigned, they encourage their classmates to share in constructive dialogue to incorporate their personal

takeaways and perspectives. Undoubtedly, there is just something very unifying about reading a book together like a book club and the LCD Class of 2023 is doing it with ease!

For more information about "It's Your Ship: Management Techniques from the Best Damn Ship in the Navy," ask your local bookstore to order a copy. Happy Reading, LCD Class of 2023!



Legislators and Business Professionals Meet for an Elegant Evening!

For generations, Delawareans have spoken proudly of the Delaware Way: the practice of working together, through differences, to find common ground and get things done in this small, but mighty, state of dear neighbors. Delawareans use our accessible land mass size, close proximity to major metropolitan cities, and key economic drivers to our advantage. We're all trying to create a better and more equitable community. The people who represent the state's citizens are the same people that live in our neighborhoods, shop at our grocery stores, send their children to our schools and understand why Delaware is such an amazing place to live, work and play. We share the same goals, we communicate regularly and have fun together while working.

One of the most intriguing phenomena here in Delaware is the process by which the first State is governed. Residents and businesses alike take great interest in what's happening at Legislative Hall. In terms of creating laws and upholding policies, there is a spirit of collaboration. A little over a month after the 152nd General Assembly reconvened (January 10, 2023), the Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce (CDCC) hosted its Annual Capital Reception on Feb. 9 at Roma Italian Restaurant in Dover. Legislators, CDCC board members, sponsors and members of the Legislative Affairs Committee gathered for an evening of conversation and pertinent bill review.

The purpose of this symposium was for Board Members and local business professionals to share with current lawmakers the legislative agenda of the Chamber, hear their thoughts, ask questions, learn, and create an air of collegial understanding. The lively conversation swirled around topics concerning the Legalization of Recreational Marijuana (HB 1 and HB 2), Realty Transfer Tax (HB 36), Climate

Change Solutions Act (SB305 during the 151st Assembly), Family Medical Leave Act, Open for Business, Advanced Clean Car II Program Regulation (DNREC), Workforce Development & Retention, and Infrastructure. All was shared in a friendly exchange of ideas and relationships were maintained and strengthened from all sides in the room.

The CDCC encourages all business leaders to be engaged in the work of the 152nd General Assembly. Delaware Lawmakers are interested in what you have to say, they want to know how their decisions will affect your business. They serve at the pleasure of the people - and the people have a deep responsibility to remain involved in the process. Your CDCC constantly monitors the work of the General Assembly on your behalf in order to keep you informed and up to date. Let's celebrate these unique relationships here in Delaware by continuing to work together as a team.

The CDCC thanks everyone in attendance at this year's Capital Reception. Thank you to this event's sponsors: C.S. Kidner Associates/Capitol Strategies, Chesapeake Utilities Corp., Delaware Municipal Electric Corporation (DEMEC), Delamarva Power-An Exelon Company, Horthy & Horthy, P.A., Faw Casson, and The Willis Group, LLC. Thank you for supporting YOUR CDCC and the Central Delaware community. Thank you to the fabulous and accommodating staff at Roma Italian Restaurant for taking great care, time, and attention to detail to all our guests. Thank you for welcoming us into your fine establishment again for delicious nourishment and comfort!

For more information about the CDCC's role in legislation or to become involved, please contact the office at (302) 734-7513.



55+ EXPO

Continued from Page 1

use more information about how to care for them, and even ourselves. You shouldn't wait till you're 55+ to plan to be 55+!

If you are interested in increasing your company's name recognition and expanding awareness of your brand, you may want to consider participating in this event as a sponsor or a vendor! This expo allows us to bring customers to you all under one roof. The CDCC wants to attract quality leads to you and your business with the promise of building relationships simultaneously. This Expo-style event will also give vendors and exhibitors an opportunity to network with others in your industry!

The 55+ plus is a FREE event open to the public with no registration required. Mark April 4 in your phone or planner to attend. Make a day of it with your friends, colleagues, coworkers, family and friends – all are welcome, and all could benefit! Stick around for seminars, and Bayhealth's Medical Center which will be on hand to provide information about healthy living and wellness. Caregivers Support Exhibitors will offer important information needed to take care of your elders. There will be live entertainment

and sponsored seminars to entertain. FREE Health Screenings will be available in the Wellness Section. Don't miss this one-stop shop for all your care needs!

The CDCC would like to thank our sponsors (as of Feb. 28): Bally's Dover Casino Resort, Bayhealth, Delaware Medicare Assistance Bureau, Dover Post, Eden Hill Medical Center, Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield Delaware, and United Healthcare. Thank you for extending your support to this event and for your community!

For more information on attending the 55+ Expo or serving as a sponsor or vendor, call the CDCC Office at (302) 734-7513. We look forward to seeing you on April 4th, enjoying this unique expo and, whether you are a senior, someone who's planning to be a senior, or a caregiver, discovering new ways to live your best life! Visit www.cdcc.net for more information today!

Bally's
DOVER



An event for seniors... and for those who plan to be seniors... and for those who care for seniors!

55+ EXPO

Tuesday, April 4th
9 am - 3 pm

22ND ANNUAL 55+ EXPO
Bally's Dover Casino Resort

- * Always Well-Attended * Wide Variety of Vendors *
- * Wellness Section * Caregiver's Support Resources *
- * FREE Health Screenings *
- * Giveaways and Prizes * Special Programs * Live Entertainment *
- * FREE Admission * FREE Parking *

Sponsored By: (as of 2/16/23)

Bayhealth, The Center at Eden Hill, DMAB, Highmark Delaware, United Healthcare, Bally's, Dover Post, cdcc

For more info, call the CDCC office 302-734-7513.

LEGISLATIVE LUNCH

Continued from Page 1

the ice between two crucial parties of our Central Delaware Community: lawmakers and business leaders. The CDCC is a steadfast advocate for the interests of its business members and the community at large. The CDCC wants the public to know how they can get engaged, involved and have their voices heard.

Legislators will construct a panel to engage in discussion about pertinent business matters. They are ready to provide clarity, guidance and their personal stances on relevant issues that concern us all. Don't miss this chance to join this influential gathering to help shape the future of Central Delaware.

The CDCC would like to thank BIG Investment Services for making this event possible for us and our valued guests. Thank you to our Platinum Sponsors from: Century Engineering, Chesapeake Utilities Corp., Dover Federal Credit Union, G. Fedale Roofing & Siding, Harrington Raceway & Casino, Kraft Heinz, PAM Health



Rehabilitation Hospital of Dover, Pratt Insurance and R&R Commercial Realty.

Another thank you to our General Assembly Sponsors from: C.S. Kidner Associates / Capitol Strategies, Delaware Association of Realtors, Delaware Municipal Electric Corporation (DEMEC), Delaware State News, Del-One Federal Credit Union, Dover Motor Speedway, Dowding Resource Group, George & Lynch, Inc., Highmark Blue Cross Blue

Shield Delaware, Parkowski, Guerke & Swayze, P.A., Pepsi Bottling Ventures of Delmarva, Shore United Bank, The Willis Group, LLC, and Wilmington University.

Don't delay in purchasing your tickets for this consistently sold-out and highly anticipated event by YOUR CDCC. Rates are as follows: \$55/person for Chamber Members if paid by March 9, \$60/person for Chamber Members after March 9. Tickets are \$80 per person for Non-members. To

purchase and reserve your seat at the table, please visit cdcc.net and go to Calendar of Events, or call the office at (302) 734-7513.

Thank you for your consideration in attending this impactful event and influencing the future of our beloved home – Central Delaware. We can't wait to welcome you to Bally's Dover Resort Casino on March 23, 2023, from 11 a.m. to 1:30pm for the CDCC's 21st Annual Legislative Luncheon!

The CDCC's 2023 Home & Garden Show was a Success!



CDCC'S 2023 HOME & GARDEN SHOW



The CDCC held its 2023 Home & Garden Expo on Feb. 17-18, at the Delaware State Fairgrounds Exhibit Hall, and the event was a huge success! It featured over 40 different vendors from across the industry, from construction and gardening to mortgage and insurance services. The CDCC welcomed hundreds of new and familiar faces from the community to see, learn and engage with local business experts.

Guests walked away with great ideas, new information and the tools needed to begin creating the home and garden of their dreams! Guests also learned a wealth of knowledge by attending scheduled seminars from Homestead Gardens, Stone Nation Granite & Marble and Dover Federal Credit Union. Topics included tips for purchasing cabinets or countertops; preparing your garden for spring; and a first-time home buyer's guide. Attendees were able to ask questions and receive thorough, honest answers instantly in the Delaware State Fairgrounds Exhibit Hall's board room.

Eager guests arrived on time on Friday at noon when the doors opened and remained steady until 6 p.m. Saturday welcomed a larger weekend crowd from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. The CDCC would like to express gratitude to everyone in attendance at this year's Home & Garden Expo. Thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedule to attend this event, make it a success and bring it to life. The CDCC is always happy to offer the opportunity for positive, face-to-face engagements between businesses and potential customers. The CDCC hopes the vendors present began creating valuable relationships with not only attendees, but their business peers as well.

This event would not have been possible without the help of our generous sponsors, whom the CDCC would like to thank: Bright Side Exteriors, Coastal Bath Co., Delaware State News, G. Fedale Roofing & Siding, Homestead Gardens, Orbit Energy & Power and Stone Nation Granite & Marble. The CDCC thanks you and your business for supporting this free event for the community to showcase the best of Central Delaware and the surrounding area! We'd like to express a special thank you to Woody's on Wheels for providing delicious meals from his food truck for the CDCC's guests.

For more information about the CDCC and/or this event, contact the CDCC office at (302) 734-713 or online at cdcc.net. The CDCC cannot wait to see what is in store next year!





A Hole-In-One at Jonathan's Landing Golf Club!

The CDCC and friends met for an evening of mixing and mingling at Jonathan's Landing Golf Club in Magnolia, Del., on Feb. 22 for their monthly Sunset Business Mixer! The wonderful team at Jonathan's Landing did an outstanding job hosting the CDCC and our guests with delicious refreshments and a beautifully renovated Clubhouse!

Union, and Leadership Central Delaware Steering Committee Member, for receiving her 5-star pin at Jonathan's! Kudos to Joyce for remaining engaging with the CDCC by completing her 5-star journey map, signifying multiple steps to achieve this prestigious status amongst membership! Joyce Dew is a dedicated member of the community, the CDCC, and you can be sure to meet her at an upcoming event if you haven't had the pleasure already! Visit cdcc.net to learn how you can become a 5-star member.



CDCC members thoroughly enjoyed themselves as you could see smiles, hugs, laughs, and new introductions all around the room – it was a true delight to see. After a small set up of the room for registration it was time to just add people! CDCC members from various businesses and industries stopped by and stayed to the end to win fabulous door prizes, a 50/50 raffle and more! The CDCC thanks everyone for attending this mixer and braving the cold, windy weather outside. Our members bring warmth and cheer to every event, especially the premier networking event of the CDCC – the Sunset Business Mixer!

Congratulations to Mark Reeve of Kent-Sussex Industries (KSI) for winning Member of the Month for April! Stay tuned for the April Chamber Connections issue for his feature!



Thank you again to our friends at Jonathan's Landing Golf Club for accommodating us this month to facilitate building relationships, growing Central Delaware, forging partnerships, and friendships. The CDCC is excited to return to Jonathan's Landing for our Annual Bluesuiters Golf Tournament in May – stay tuned for details this Spring!



Member News



Delaware's Healthcare is in Good Hands at Westside; Lopez Reflects on Service



Lolita A. Lopez, FACHE, has remained a well-respected and vital member of the community for her efforts to ensure that all Delawareans receive essential health care services regardless of their income or background. For the past 33 years, Lopez has led Westside Family Healthcare (WFH) as President and Chief Executive Officer. The FACHE credential she holds brings continuous value as a healthcare leader. It provides recognition as a leader among leaders in healthcare management, demonstrates competency in all areas of healthcare management and signifies lifelong commitment to change and improvement – all are accolades that exemplify Lopez.

As a community healthcare advocate, Lopez was surprised and excited when she received the call from the U.S. Sen. Tom Carper (D) to be his honored guest at the 2023 State of the Union Address on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., on Feb 7. Lopez and Carper have known each other since he was governor and have become great supporters of one another and great colleagues.

“Throughout my career, I have come to count on the Senator’s steadfast leadership in Congress and unwavering support of Westside’s mission,” Lopez shared, adding that Sen. Carper is a community health champion working diligently to secure critical investments in health centers so we can expand our footprint and meet the needs of all Delawareans.

Of Lopez, Carper said, “During her tenure, Westside Family Healthcare has grown to become a Federally Qualified Health Center, serving thousands in New Castle and Kent Counties. Her leadership has been critical for the health of residents in Delaware, having helped implement the landmark Affordable Care Act in the First State and seeing our communities through the darkest days of the pandemic.”

Westside has grown from 3 to 230 employees who deliver first-class care to more than 28,000 Delawareans, with a \$30 million budget and roughly 100,000 visits a year.

After finding her hotel, she was treated like royalty with dinner in the Senate dining room followed by introductions to many senators. Lopez had dinner with U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R) of Alaska, who is committed to ensuring that all Alaskans have access to affordable, quality healthcare, and a big supporter of healthcare. She also met Savannah Guthrie, American Broadcast Journalist.

This was Lopez’s second time to the State of the Union Address, and in comparison to the first, she felt that President Joe Biden (D) delivered a more transitional speech. What stood out most to Lopez were positive possibilities, hopefulness, reducing gun violence, lifting people up, disease control and women’s health. Lopez commented, “President Biden is ‘A common sense president’ who has seen progress thus far and proclaims, “Let’s finish the job. President Biden’s speech was exceptional, one of the best, all things considered, it has been a rough two years.” Needless to say, the speech exceeded her expectations and Lopez brought the spirit of hope back to her team in Delaware.

Lopez advocates for the Affordable Care Act and for lowering the cost of prescription drugs, and she encourages the thousands of concerned patients to email their concerns to their legislators. This helps get bills enacted that benefit all patients and reduce the huge dispar-

ity in prescription pricing.

Lopez draws inspiration from Dr. H. Jack Geiger, a doctor who fought social ills. He used medicine to take on poverty, racism and the threat of nuclear destruction. Two groups that he helped found won Nobel Peace Prizes. Dr. Geiger was a leading proponent of “social medicine,” the idea that doctors should use their expertise and moral authority not just to treat illness but also to change the conditions that make people sick in the first place: poverty, hunger, discrimination, joblessness and lack of education. Lopez is also an advocate for working to solve all social determinants of health.

Furthermore, Lopez is a proponent of women who break the glass ceiling. On this topic, Lopez suggested, “Maintain your focus, be proactive in determining your own career path. Change may be happening at a glacial pace, but it is happening. Believe in yourself and work towards your goals. In tandem with others doing the same thing, you can bring about real change in the workplace. I never take no for an answer because there is always another way. However, keep your ego in check.”

If you ask Lopez, fearless leaders are not arrogant, they see themselves as in service to others, to the mission of the organization, and to its many stakeholders. Leadership, by its definition, is creating a change for the better. To do so takes boldness, courage, preparation, persistence, faith, creativity and fearlessness.

Last month, Lopez announced that she will retire from her service on July 1, 2023. Lopez feels really proud of her legacy, and hopes it continues for many years. Once she retires, Lopez plans to spend more time with her husband at their Lewes home decompressing, gardening, and traveling. She is a member of the ChristianaCare Council of Advisors and Vice Chair of the ChristianaCare Health Services Board of Directors and is on track to be elected chair in 2024. She also serves on the

Board of Trustees of the Delaware Technical Community College.

Directors have named the Chief Operation Officer Chris Fraser as Westside’s next CEO. Lopez says, “The legacy I’ve built will be in good hands. My successor has been with me for 23 years and he’s learned all the jobs over time. He’s mission-based and committed to the organization.”

A great accomplishment Lopez lists is watching and aiding employees grow and come up through the organization, growing their own. Lopez is excited and hopeful for another Westside Family Healthcare location to be fully functional in the next five years. Congratulations, Lolita Lopez, FACHE, and thank you for your continued service to the Central Delaware community and beyond!

For more information about Lolita Lopez, FACHE, or Westside Family Healthcare, please visit their website www.westsidehealth.org.



Member News



Military Meets Community!

Military service men and women mingled with business professionals of the Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce at their Military Affaire on Feb. 28 at the Ballroom at Noble’s Pond in Dover. It was an evening of bright smiles, handshakes, good food and an address from Col. Matthew Husemann. The event a very well attended and proved to be a great time for networking, “touching base,” maintaining and building relationships to impact Central Delaware for the better.

This was a night focused on the Central Delaware community’s invaluable relationship with our service men and women here at our cherished Dover Air Force Base (DAFB). This event allows two thriving pillars of Dover’s

economy to connect and engage with each other in a way that is helpful to the city of Dover as a whole – TEAM Dover. Important conversations will be held between our business leaders and service officials about any concerns on behalf of the community, underlined with a spirit of gratitude for the work being done in both associations to continue the prosperity of our shared home, Central Delaware. The CDCC wants the DAFB to know that they are supported by their community, TEAM Dover, every day.

The CDCC would like to thank everyone in attendance for bringing this beautiful ballroom to life, representing notable Central Delaware leadership. Thank you for taking the time out of

your busy schedules to join the CDCC at our 2023 Military Affaire. Our guests make all of our events special and the CDCC appreciates the chance to connect two pillars of our community for a relaxing evening of camaraderie. TEAM Dover is an indispensable element of not only the DAFB and the Dover community, but to our nation as a whole.

Thank you to our premier sponsor: Dover Federal Credit Union, for their generous support in making this event happen. Thank you to Mission BBQ for providing delicious food for everyone present and N.K.S. Distributors for providing beverages.

Thank you to our sponsors, without whom this event would not be possi-

ble: Alpine and Rafetto Orthodontics, Always Advertising (veteran owned), Bavarian Bakery & Deli, Chesapeake Utilities Corp., City of Dover, CNU Fit, LLC, Dedicated to Women, Delaware Crime Stoppers, Delaware State News, Dowding Resource Group, LakeView Realty, Inc., Military Officers Association of American Dover Chapter, POLYTECH Adult Education, RPJ Waste Services, Inc., The Moving Experience and Wilmington University. Thank you for supporting your local servicemen and women at the Dover Air Force Base with the CDCC!

The CDCC can’t wait to see you at the Military Affaire next year!



Member News

'The Power of Your Identity' by Dr. Eunice Gwanmesia!

The CDCC was thrilled to hear, see, and witness the official book launch of community leader, Dr. Eunice Gwanmesia. On Feb. 8, Dr. Gwanmesia took the internet by storm, via Zoom, to celebrate the official release of her new book, titled "The Power of Your Identity – A Cultural Landscape for Children," accompanied by her trusted friend and mentor, Linda Arrey, CEO of WILDE and Certified Life Professional Coach. Arrey elegantly moderated this event as Dr. Gwanmesia shared her inspirations, process and synopsis of this new chapter of her life.



Dr. Gwanmesia holds many titles, including Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Strategist, educator, nurse, and of course, author. It only takes one privileged encounter with Dr. Gwanmesia to know that she is passionate about her heritage, the future generations, culture, and people. On behalf of the authoress herself – welcome to "The Power of Your Identity: A Cultural Landscape for Children"!

This book provides a structure to begin meaningful conversations about race, power, culture and bias which help create equitable educational opportunities for students. There is deliberate emphasis on equity vs. equality because the differences are stark and often misconstrued. It advises parents and educators on various techniques to combat the societal challenges their children face, while simultaneously reinforcing their self-esteem and sense of self-worth as they acknowledge and embrace the power of their identities – a topic we could all revisit.

One can argue that a person's identity is shaped prior to one's conception, molded in infancy and built upon one's earliest memories to create who you are today. Many, if not all, characteristics, behaviors and ideologies of ourselves in relation to the world can be traced back to our childhood. Many of us find ourselves unpacking and backtracking to our childhoods to make sense of our ever-evolving adulthood. One can drown in their own thoughts of the innumerable "what if's" their childhoods could've taken for the better. This often manifests in new parenting and teaching styles to provide kids with the tools to lead a better life than prior. Imagine

if you were taught this instead of that-how different would your sense of self and life be? Dr. Gwanmesia gives readers, teachers, mentors and parents a beacon of knowledge, drawing from her personal experiences, to usher in a new wave of cultural conversation for future generations to come – which begins at the dinner table.

"It's okay to look, sound, eat and be different. Conversations with children should start around the kitchen table. Children are sponges, and socialization begins at home, moving into the school systems," reminded Dr. Gwanmesia.

Children who have a strong and positive sense of identity are more likely to feel confident and secure, have healthy relationships and be successful in their personal and academic lives. Our children's social development is being impacted by their exposure to the complex (and often negative) global views on cultural identity, diversity, equity and inclusion under the inescapable pervasiveness of 2023's internet and social media. This can beg the question of "What can I do? Where do I start?"

"The Power of Your Identity" is a great first page to turn.

"The Power of Your Identity: The Cultural Landscape for Children" is a must-read for parents and educators guiding children as they deal with the crisis of identity in culturally diverse

THE EASIEST WAY TO STAY INFORMED NO MATTER WHAT TIME YOU WAKE UP.

A digest of news to save you time and help you find what's important to you.



DAYBREAK

DELAWARE  STATE NEWS

Sign up for our FREE newsletter:
BaytoBayNews.com/newsletters

Member News

Make Your Next Event Unforgettable at King Cole Farm in Dover!



Great becomes grandeur at King Cole Farm. The KCF is Central Delaware's newest event partner, conveniently located in Dover. Within a short drive of Annapolis, Baltimore, Washington, D.C., and Philadelphia lies a most elegant venue ready to host you and your special guests for an event you will never forget!

King Cole is your partner in creating romantic, unforgettable memories. KCF's welcoming staff is happy to accommodate everyone, no matter the style or event; they are here to offer an elegant, magical, well-orchestrated space for you and your guests. With all sorts of aesthetically unique features, breathtaking outdoor gardens, and a house full of history, King Cole Farm is the perfect space for the start of happily ever after!

Through the turn of four centuries, history has been made here. The farm has been family-owned and maintained over the generations upon 500 acres of land in Dover. In between Pickering Beach on the Delaware Bay and the Dover Air Force Base, their venue is also a fully operational corn and soybean farm located at 1730 Bayside Drive, Dover.

Previously owned by Audrey Owens Draper and Harry Draper of Milton, Del., King Cole Farm was designed as a place that brings people together. In the 1960s, Harry Draper was the owner of King Cole Canning Company in Milton. The main residence mansion was built in 2003 and, in 2006, the adjacent pole barn was completed by Sally Draper Dickerson and Chester T. Dickerson Jr., as their residence and farming operation grew. It was their wish upon their passing to keep the property operational and maintained for future generations to come.

Jim and Annamarie Dickerson, current owners, and property managers, relocated to Delaware to continue that legacy of gathering and celebrating that is instilled in their heritage. Joy has always stemmed from sharing the farm, while the generations of history serve as an example of the wonderful opportunity here, they are now glad to share their farm with you.

Jim and Annamarie owned and operated the Francis Scott Key Family Resort until March of 2020, and have been in the hospitality industry successfully for years. Over 28 years, they were proudly honored for their hospitality, including being twice named Trip Advisor's top 25 hotels for families in the USA. They are clearly experienced in running an event venue and making their guests happy. Jim's parents, Sally and Chester Dickerson Jr., enjoyed their retirement at the farm hoping to have new memories made in their honor. Jim and Annamarie, inspired and driven by their family legacy, believe they would be very proud to see the farm being part of a new generation of experiences.

From their spacious, fully retrofitted main house to their luscious, breathtaking courtyard and garden space, King Cole Farm is the perfect place for your event. Whether you're hosting your family and friends for a large, elegant wedding, or a small gathering of a few special people for an anniversary, retirement, or other personal event, they are ready to make your stay exactly what you imagine. King Cole Farm is a perfect spot for your corporate retreat, offering many gathering spaces both indoors and outdoors, a fully stocked kitchen and modern suite-style bedrooms. King Cole Farm is ready to open their doors to your memorable occasion.

The team wants your wedding experience to be tailored to your vision. All packages include their five-bedroom residence, plus their wedding gazebo and pole barn. This allows for your rehearsal dinner, ceremony, reception and brunch, all here at King Cole Farm. Their pole barn comfortably seats 250 for a seated meal and up to 500 for a cocktail reception. The venue offers 9,400 square feet of climate-controlled event space, plus an additional 9,000 square foot outdoor courtyard with string lights, Adirondack chairs and wine barrel fire pits, year-round.

Their lounge is located inside the pole barn and boasts a bar, card table, flat screen TV with a gaming station and leather sofa. The commercial grade prep kitchen includes an ice machine, freezer, refrigerator, warming ovens and prep tables. If an indoor ceremony is required (for inclement weather) the sun porch can accommodate seating for up to 200 people. The site has everything from controlled lighting, tables, linens and chairs, to wedding planning services, a dance floor, bridal suite, tranquil private pond and more. Both the pole barn and residence are American Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant. Parking space is available for 120 cars, plus overflow parking. Food trucks can be accommodated. This is not a "cookie cutter" venue, and the staff will work within client's budgets.

King Cole Farm is eager to give back by continuing their family tradition and offering their venue to the surrounding community. The owners are interested in assisting non-profits and other local agencies by helping to create a space for their events.

Good news! Jim and Annamarie Dickerson are currently booking for 2023 and beyond, eager to support your ideas in the hopes of making

unforgettable memories. As property managers and owners, the Dickersons want to give their special touch to every event and would love to host a tour for you to see the magic in person! Call today to schedule an appointment.

There will be an "Open House" on Saturday, April 29. If you are interested in attending, please message them and they will put you on their list for an invitation. For general questions about the property or services, contact (302) 677-1730 or kingcolegfarm.com.

Congratulations to Jim and Annamarie Dickerson on their newly renovated property! The CDCC wishes them success in the new year and for decades to come. Thank you for being an especially trusted resource and event space for our community. The CDCC looks forward to coming back to King Cole Farm soon!

SUNSET MIXER

Continued from Page 1

downtown Milford. Their location is five minutes from Airpark Plaza shopping & dining and only 10 minutes from DE Turf Sports Complex.

The accommodating staff encourage guests to grab a free hot breakfast before taking in Delaware's scenery at Abbott's Mill Nature Center and Slaughter Beach, both within 15 minutes. Of course, guests can enjoy amenities like free WiFi, fitness center and indoor pool with their stay.

Come enjoy drinks and refreshments with your local community as you expand your network, catch up with colleagues, and meet new friendly faces, in a new location. Don't forget to bring plenty of business cards, smiles, and cash to enter the CDCC's 50/50 raffle! Feel free to bring a door prize to share with a lucky winner in the room. Door prizes are memorable ways in which to showcase your business and get your product/service in the hands of a happy member.

The CDCC would like to thank the Hampton Inn Milford in advance for

being so accommodating and welcoming to the Central Delaware business community. Thank you working with the CDCC to create memories and relationships as we continue to expand together.

For more information about the Hampton Inn in Milford, please feel free to visit their website at www.hilton.com/en/hampton or give them a call at (302) 422-4320.

For more information about the CDCC's March 29th Sunset Business Mixer at the Hampton Inn in Milford from 5 to 7 p.m., do not hesitate to call

the Chamber office at (302) 734-7513. The CDCC is always excited to welcome its members to a new location to connect and grow with each other. Register today – the CDCC can't wait to see you!



Member News

DR. GWANMESIA

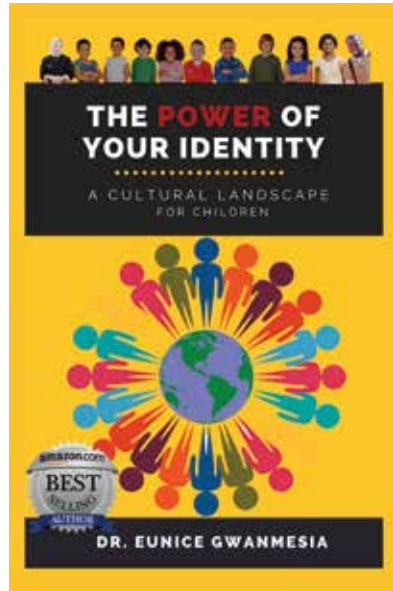
Continued from Page 13

environments. Dr. Eunice Gwanmesia offers comprehensive yet practical insight on the social issues of cultural identity, equity, inclusion, advocacy and belonging. Inclusiveness matters to our children. This book positively reinforces acceptance of cultural differences, plus methods for using your own individual background as a tool for relating to others. It opens your mind to the complexities that are needed to build organizations where all people feel like they belong. There is such untapped potential for good in our cultural differences, just waiting to be mined. The published work of authoress Gwanmesia is an accessible and tangible reminder of that.

As an immigrant (from Cameroon, West Africa), mother, caregiver and educator herself, Dr. Gwanmesia wrote this guide for all students who have felt lost at one point in their lives and the adults they have become (surely a feeling we all can relate to in some way). The human experience is complex, difficult and messy, but there lies great beauty in exploring the unknown to find your sense of self and belonging – a human need.

“The book is written in a style that is friendly and accessible to all. It will serve as a traveling companion, a resource for immigrants and receiving communities, a handbook for all parents and a must-read for children dealing with the crisis of finding a sense of belonging in new environments. It may be just one important response to the toxicity that is becoming the hallmark of our modern social environment in the United States and other parts of the world,” writes confidant, Eric Chinje, in the book’s foreword.

The CDCC highly suggests sitting with Dr. Gwanmesia for a simple cup of coffee – we are positive you will walk away from it feeling seen, heard, enlightened and encouraged. CEO of Eunity Solutions, a consulting and coaching firm, Dr. Gwanmesia is using her own personal trials and tribulations to be agents of change among the youth – which are her greatest inspiration, including her two children. She has worked hard in making businesses, schools and hospitals more inclusive and diverse, and now she is sharing a piece of that knowledge in an accessible text.



The journey to publication was emotionally draining, but equally rewarding for her. From the dawn of an idea, launch on Amazon, to finally feeling a print copy in her hands, she is grateful for the process and is excited for readers to experience the fruits of her labor. She is excited for this book to get into classrooms, open minds, and “break barriers” to create change for years to come, starting with the young. She thanks her accountability partners who helped her process the feelings that this literary endeavor brought to the surface. Although times became overwhelming, Dr. Gwanmesia pushed through because, just like her vision for what Eunity Solutions is today, she just knew it felt right to write about a topic that is in her heart.

If you want to get to know someone at the source, read their work and notice what problems make them act to find solutions. Each one of us can choose to be a part of the problem or part of the solution. Dr. Gwanmesia is a great local, and international example of choosing to be a part of the solution.

For more information about Dr. Gwanmesia, her book “The Power of Your Identity – A Cultural Landscape for Children,” or Eunity Solutions, visit www.eunitysolutions.com and check out the beaming reviews on the book’s official Amazon webpage. The paperback version of the book can be found here: <https://eunity-solutions-llc.ueniweb.com/book>. Please join the CDCC in congratulating Dr. Gwanmesia on this momentous achievement!

Carole A. Kisner

REALTOR® ABR, CRS, GRI

Real Estate questions call ME!

direct: (302)363-3948

Office: (302)677-0020

Carole@AskCaroleKisner.com



kw CENTRAL DELAWARE
KELLERWILLIAMS.

1671 S. State St., Dover
302-677-0020

Each office independently owned and operated.



302.744.9875
mountainconsulting.net

Professional & Technical Services:

Construction · Construction Management
Civil Engineering · Civil Site Design
Stormwater Management Design
Erosion & Sediment Control Plans
Project Management & Oversight
CADD Design · Utility Plans
Electrical Services

Land Survey Services:

ALTA Surveys · Residential Surveys
Construction Stakeout · As-Builts
Survey Control · Flood Elevation Certificates
Topographic Survey & Mapping
Aerial Target Control

Woman Owned, 8(a)
& HUBZone Certified



Vendor Space & Sponsorships Available!



Saturday, April 22, 2023 • 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Wild Quail Golf & Country Club • Wyoming, DE

Delaware’s most popular event targeting women in a relaxed, fun-filled atmosphere. The day includes a fashion show, shopping, light refreshments, signature cocktail, door prizes, giveaways and a VIP experience.

Vendor space is limited. Don’t miss this opportunity.

Presented by



Vendor Hospitality Sponsor



Sponsored by



Charitable Fundraising Partner



To be a part of the fun, contact us at adsupport@inusa.org or 302-741-8200.

Member News

Delaware State News Introduces New Publisher: Konrad LaPrade

The Delaware State News (DSN), BayToBayNews.com and Independent Newsmedia Inc., welcomed its new Group Publisher, Konrad LaPrade in February 2023. He succeeded his father, Darel LaPrade who retired from the position, and Konrad is “super honored” to be able to take over this new leadership role.

Konrad has been working side-by-side with his father for the past four years, and has been the impact his father’s career has had in Delaware. He only wishes to continue that same legacy for the community.

Konrad is most excited to get to know “the community and community players we have, and how they impact the community and make it a better place.” It has been a lifetime dream of Konrad’s to be a group publisher and lead the publications into the future.

Ready and prepared, Konrad isn’t looking to “reinvent the wheel,” he is ready to learn new things, and create a new product line every day in print and online. He is confident, and looking forward to his team bringing him up to speed. His leadership style is to empower people to do what they do best, and to do what he can do to help them.

Konrad’s role as group publisher is to be the main face of the newspaper, managing a large digital agency, sales, editorial and to share upcoming Delaware community events. One of the challenges is that the cost of newsprint is up 40%, and businesses are very price conscious. Konrad wants to ensure that they remain financially viable. He is inspired by our local businesses that “fight the good fight” daily and his passion has always been for small to mid-sized businesses (noting that minority-owned businesses have been

especially challenged with COVID).

Konrad’s goals are to bring people together, not tear them apart, be the voice of reason, and believe in community connections. “We are about to enter a presidential election cycle and people should engage in respectful discussions where people don’t argue and shout at one another. Journalism is unbiased, and non-partisan, and we don’t endorse, nor take sides,” Konrad states.

Konrad serves on the Executive Committee of the CDCC and is also a member of the Capital City Rotary Club in Dover. He resides in Dover with his wife, Joy, and their four children.

Please join the CDCC in welcoming Konrad LaPrade to his new position as publisher for the Delaware State News! The CDCC is excited to work



alongside him and witness the great things he will achieve as a leader in Central Delaware!

Editor’s Note: It’s not a typo! Darel LaPrade and Konrad LaPrade do use differing versions of their last name.

Practice for the Mini Master’s Mixer 2023!



Dust off your putters and pick your lucky golf ball to begin training for the CDCC’s Mini Masters Mini Golf Tournament and Mixer coming up next month on Wednesday, April 26, at Tre Sorelle Dolce Ice Cream & Mini Golf in Wyoming, Delaware – the perfect location for this fun-filled event!

Begin thinking about who you want to have on your team of four to take home the coveted BLUE jacket and winning prize and of course, bragging rights for the year! Also begin thinking about your coordinated costumes/t-shirts to represent your team and/or business in the best way! This is a great

event for team bonding between family, friends, colleagues, and coworkers. You won’t want to miss out on the fun with your local community over a highly competitive round of mini golf. You have been warned!

Don’t delay in registering your team for the Mini Masters – slots fill up fast! Thankfully the CDCC has added a 2nd round of play which will allow for more teams to participate (by popular demand). The CDCC is so excited to welcome you back to the whimsical mini-golf course at Tre Sorelle Dolce Ice Cream & Mini Golf – a real hometown and tourist treat!

In addition to the competition, this event is also a Sunset Business Mixer which means that you do not have to play golf to enjoy the evening. The Sunset Business Mixer is FREE to attend, and we highly encourage our guests to bring their guests. The CDCC will have food trucks, a cornhole competition, yard games, and of course prizes, prizes, prizes! Alex Vaughn will be keeping the energy up with music and announcements as he provides stellar sound support. Of

course, Tre Sorelle’s sweet treats will be available for purchase because it’s never a bad time for ice cream!

Thank you to owners Mike and Becky Marasco for welcoming the community into their facility for fun to be had and memories to be made – we couldn’t do it without them!

We hope you will save the date: April 26, 2023, for the CDCC’s Mini Masters Mini Golf Tournament and Sunset Business Mixer.

To register a team, or to be placed on a team, please contact the CDCC. For more information about the Mini Masters Golf Mini-Golf Tournament and April’s Sunset Business Mixer, and to register, please do not hesitate to call the CDCC at (302) 734-7513 or visit our website at cdcc.net. The CDCC is still offering sponsorship opportunities. This evening will be a blast with your presence and participation! The CDCC is so excited to see your competitive faces and A-game on the green or cheering on the sidelines at Tre Sorelle Dolce Ice Cream & Mini Golf on April 26 from 4 to 7 p.m.



Member News

Attention Future Leaders: Be the Next Class!

Think of someone who you consider to be a great leader in your life. What makes them a great leader? What characteristics do they hold? Are you ready to take a step toward becoming a leader like that? The Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce (CDCC) has an opportunity for you – Leadership Central Delaware! The CDCC invites you to learn more about this awesome program at the LCD Invitational Reception – coming soon, stay tuned!

Since its inception, Leadership Central Delaware (LCD), the diamond program of the CDCC, having graduated more than 450 individuals, has had a significant positive impact here in Central Delaware. LCD is designed to create effective, dynamic, knowledgeable leaders. This program connects emerging leaders through diverse networks, while enhancing leadership

skills and community knowledge, resulting in increased value, individually and professionally.

Participants in LCD gain an opportunity to develop resources and partnerships, an understanding of the role of leaders in the community, connections with people of influence, and an understanding of the importance of collaboration among businesses... all while developing and enhancing their own leadership skills. Sponsoring companies will receive ten months of advertising to 1,000+ people through numerous CDCC avenues, engaged and connected employees who are ready to make a positive difference, and recognition as a company dedicated to making Central Delaware THE place to live, work, and play.

LCD's 10-month program is comprised of 9 day-long learning sessions



A program of the Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce

(one per month, beginning in October), an opening and a closing retreat, and graduation. Each day-long session (8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) is focused on a different economic segment of Kent County. The days are spent hearing from the leaders of various industries, enjoying presentations and tours and engaging in hands-on learning experiences.

Start planning now to be part of Leadership Central Delaware and stay tuned for details regarding our FREE Invitational Reception. Class sizes are limited – participants are chosen through an interview process. To learn more about Leadership Central Delaware, visit www.cdcc.net/education/lcd. For more information, please contact the CDCC Office (302)734-7513. YOU could be in the next class of Central Delaware Leadership!

Care. Comfort. Compassion.



Senior Helpers offers personalized in-home care, professional caregivers and peace of mind for your family. All at a moment's notice.

**SENIOR
Helpers**

9 East Lockerman Street
Suite 3B
Dover, DE 19901

(302) 674-2234
www.seniorhelpers.com

All rights reserved. Senior Helpers locations are independently owned and operated.
© 2022 SH Franchising, LLC.

Appreciate
the little things



Custom jewelry designed and manufactured on the premises

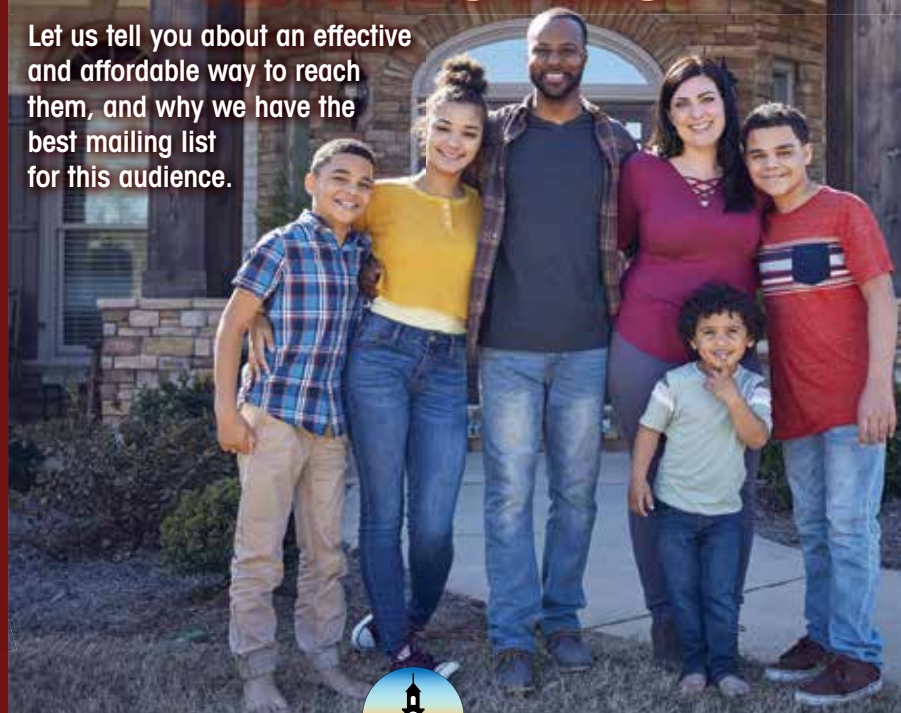
Sayers
Jewelers & Gemologist
Since 1950

19 South Main St.
Smyrna, DE
302-653-9456



INTERESTED IN REACHING NEW MOVERS?

Let us tell you about an effective and affordable way to reach them, and why we have the best mailing list for this audience.



DELAWARE 
STATE NEWS

adsupport@iniusa.org • 302-741-8200

Member News

**Your Town. Your Voice.
Your News.**

DP ST MT
Dover Post
Smyrna/Clayton SunTimes
Middletown Transcript
GANNETT



DASEF Receives ARPA Funding; Exploration Center Continues

The Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce (CDCC) was elated to receive a phone call from Stephanie Wright, Academy Director for the Delaware AeroSpace Education Foundation (DASEF), bearing wonderful news! She finally received a check on behalf of the foundation from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) allotted for \$91,000! These funds from ARPA are meant to reimburse funds lost due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which the folks at DASEF are still navigating through.

Needless to say, the COVID-19 pandemic forced everything and everyone to come to screeching halt. That meant all projects, big construction plans, and meetings had to be postponed, cancelled, and delayed – this included the construction project currently underway on the DASEF campus. The Innovation Technology Exploration Center’s (ITEC) exterior is impressive and standing strong; the interior is still a work in progress.

“The State of Delaware is why this is happening, and we just want [the center] to serve the state,” Dr. Wright shared.

The ITEC is making great progress day-by-day and this check delivered by Joanne Masten of Kent County Levy

Court, will be crucial in furthering the progress towards its completion in 2023. This 2-floor building will change the community forever once it officially opens to the public. Dr. Wright led Joanne Masten and Cleo Bell of the CDCC through the construction site. It was spectacular to see the work in progress and to hear about the amazing activities, programs and community events this space will accommodate. There is space carved out for multiple state-of-the-art classrooms, dormitories, an orientation theater, a water exhibit, discovery rooms, display areas, geothermal rooms, a 9/11 memorial, and of course, a jaw-dropping planetarium. Dr. Wright cannot wait for people see the 11-foot T-Rex, student-painted walls, a life size solar system structure – all surrounded by a prehistoric theme, once the infrastructure is complete.

The team at DASEF, under Dr. Wright, works diligently to provide educational programming, birthday parties, explorations, “evening Eyes on the Sky” events, and an amazing camp experience known as the Delaware Aerospace Academy throughout the year. Overall, DASEF touches the hearts and minds of more than 25,000 individuals each year through these universal experiences and

beyond. DASEF is focused on using an academic curriculum, presentation, symposiums, professional development opportunities, events, activities, and resources of the Environmental Outpost to inspire and educate the people of the Delaware Valley in learning about science, space, technology, engineering, the Earth’s environment, and mathematics. The completed ITEC building will be life-changing to our community and carry the legacy that Dr. Wright has created for many lives to come.

Dr. Wright is grateful for her team, the state, her “friends who believe in this,” and the community for supporting DASEF as they work hard to finish the ITEC and continue to impact Central Delaware and the surrounding states through education.

Please join the CDCC in congratulating Dr. Stephanie Wright and the team at DASEF on receiving this important funding towards the completion of their Innovation Technology Exploration Center which will be completed soon and open for students, teachers, and the community. Congrats, DASEF!

To learn more about DASEF and all they have to offer, call (302) 659-5003 or visit them on the web at www.dasef.org.

Edward Jones

Christopher Smith
Financial Advisor
CFP®, AAMS®
302.735.8770

WE ARE LOCAL AND WE ARE HERE FOR YOU

Complimentary Portfolio Review
Personalized Financial Strategies
Strategic Planning

CDCC joins Baybird Orthodontics for a Ribbon Cutting

The Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce (CDCC) hosted a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Baybird Orthodontics on Wednesday, March 1. Chamber members and friends joined Dr. Sita Patel and her team to celebrate the Grand Opening of their new location at 100 S. Main Street, Suite 310, in Smyrna.

Baybird Orthodontics' mission is "to bring out people's true potential and happiness with a smile they love." Dr. Patel and her team provide orthodontic treatment and care to patients. Orthodontic services include traditional braces, custom braces, clear aligners, 3D printed braces, early interceptive treatment and retainers. 3D custom braces are printed for a patient's exact tooth shape, size and position. Dr. Patel will digitally plan the ideal position of each bracket for optimal movement of each tooth. The advancements in the world of orthodontics have created faster and more comfortable treatment results to meet the needs of every unique patient and Dr. Patel is ready to make her mark in the industry.

This new practice serves children as

young as 7, teens and adults because orthodontic needs change as people change. Dr. Patel is diligent in providing a custom, optimal treatment plan for each individual patient. She takes the lifestyle of every patient into consideration when creating a treatment course that is right for them and one that achieves their desired smile.

Dr. Patel is a Camden-Wyoming native who is excited to be working again in Central Delaware as she learns more about Smyrna. Despite moving out of state for training, and even spending some time working in beautiful Cape Cod, Mass., she always wanted to come back to be near family and serve the community she was so familiar with. She often says, "I was always that person touting all the great things Delaware has to offer and I'm thrilled to be able to put down roots here and watch Kent County grow and expand."

"I never thought that I would open an orthodontic practice but with the support of my family and friends I started taking the first steps towards creating the practice of my dreams. I spent many a night behind a computer

learning about how to start a business, what's involved in getting an orthodontic practice off the ground, and how I would manage all of that with a brand new baby," Dr. Patel shared. Thankfully, Dr. Patel was able to get a lot of information from friends and colleagues in the profession, as well as State of Delaware resources. She is thankful and excited about this new journey of owning her own practice. She has certainly learned a lot through the long year and a half of construction and preparation. Baybird Orthodontics finally opened their doors for a soft opening in January of 2023.

"Although very new, we're starting to become familiar with the Smyrna community through attending events like Christmas in Smyrna, Smyrna at Night, and events related to Smyrna School District. As we meet more



people from the Smyrna and the rest of Kent County, we hope to play a part in supporting local school districts and youth organizations with their endeavors," added Dr. Patel.

For information about Baybird Orthodontics, please contact Dr. Sita Patel at (302) 659-9300 or visit www.baybirdorthodontics.com. Please join the Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce in congratulating Dr. Patel and her team on the Grand Opening of her new practice, Baybird Orthodontics!

New Member Spotlights

Introducing Harrington Dialysis – DaVita!

Did you know that DaVita means "giving life" in Italian? This is a very fitting name for Harrington Dialysis – DaVita, a provider of dialysis and integrated health care delivery and management services. The team at DaVita is so excited to be new members of the Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce (CDCC) and to announce the opening of their first out-patient clinic in Delaware this month (March 2023). Their new facility will be located at 2000 Midway Drive in Harrington, Del. The company is headquartered in Denver, Colo.

"We are on a quest to 'build the greatest health care community the world has ever seen' reads the official website. This international company, serving 10 countries outside of the U.S., has sat on Fortune's World's Most Admired Companies List for 15 years in a row. With 55,00 teammates employed in the U.S. serving over 200,000 patients, DaVita has become a pillar in the Healthcare industry, specializing in Kidney care, kidney disease and dialysis. "Through DaVita Integrated Kidney Care1 (DaVita IKC) we also provide comprehensive care and complex chronic condition management to patients nationwide,

whether they are in the early stages of kidney disease, transitioning to dialysis, seeking a kidney transplant or receiving life-sustaining dialysis," said Kathleen Edwards, Healthcare Administrator for the company.

For those who may not know about dialysis, it is a routine treatment to help impaired renal function. A person will need DaVita's dialysis services when the kidneys are damaged and longer able to remove waste and excess fluid from their bloodstream and result in the patient feeling significantly better. DaVita is responsible for delivering this life-sustaining treatment to those who need it the most. Dialysis is more accessible now than ever through private and state/federal funded insurance programs. Treatment can be completed on-site or in the comfort of patients' homes. This new DaVita Harrington location will offer both in-center and home modality services to the community.

DaVita also offers skilled nursing facilities and kidney transplant procedures. "DaVita delivers the same safe, high-quality therapy as it provides in the outpatient dialysis center—three treatments per week—at your place

of residence," reads their website. "At DaVita, our goal is to help everyone eligible pursue a kidney transplant and to inform those who support them. Transplant is an ideal treatment option for eligible people with end stage kidney disease (ESRD) to replace kidney function. After successful transplantation, people typically do not have to perform dialysis for many years, which may lead to more energy, a less restrictive diet, longer life, and more time and freedom to enjoy life," continued company leaders.

Edwards has been with the company for 15 years. "I've recently relocated from New York to Delaware with my husband of 38 years to enjoy the charm, friendliness, and relaxed lifestyle offered here. We both enjoy a myriad of activities such as kayaking, hiking and of course dining out on the delicious seafood!" she shared. The CDCC is excited to welcome her to the great first state as she continues to work in providing the utmost care for Central Delaware.

Harrington Dialysis – DaVita is happy to join the Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce to collaborate with us and fellow business partners

and members. Edwards hopes to help establish, promote, and grow DaVita's services to the Delaware population to continue providing life-saving treatment services.

For more information about Harrington Dialysis-DaVita, please visit www.davita.com or give them a call at (302) 305-2347. Please join us in welcoming Harrington Dialysis – DaVita into membership!



New Member Spotlights

Introducing Fish Lawn and Tree, LLC!

Trees – we need them to breathe, they’re beautiful, provide shade and support our ecosystem and are overall very necessary and helpful – until they grow out of hand and become uncontrollable, resulting in a potential problem. Whether your trees need ornamental pruning, or full removal, experts are needed! Removing a tree, tree stump, installing a new tree and privacy hedge, or much need trimming is not an easy task. Leave it to the hands of the staff at Fish Lawn and Tree to take care of all your professional tree needs.

Fish Lawn and Tree, LLC, is a family-owned tree company based out of Townsend, Del. They are certified by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) and specialized in both commercial and residential tree removal, limb trimming, stump grinding, lot clearing and full spectrum tree health-care applications. They offer financing options and free estimates. The ISA “promotes the professional practice

of arboriculture by fostering a greater worldwide awareness of the benefits of trees.” Being ISA certified means that Fish Lawn and Tree has proven a commitment to safety, proficiency and wise stewardship of arboriculture.

This fast, friendly, and fully functional company is here to serve all of northern Delaware! They have the experience, training, and equipment to get the job done for you safely. They follow ANSI A300 pruning practices and follow all OSHA safety regulations.

The services don’t stop there! Fish Lawn and Tree, LLC, is fully prepared to tackle your winter snow and ice management needs. This company works with HOAs, civic associations, property managers and business owners to be ready at a moment’s notice. Winter services include: detailed site maps, parking lot staking in late fall, pre and post season pictures, salting, plowing, snow stacking, and sidewalk

clearing. They stockpile their own road salt as well.

Meet Ryan Yoder – Director of Business Development for Fish Lawn and Tree, LLC! He manages the day-to-day operations of the company such as running estimates and managing social media accounts. He grew up in Middletown, Del, graduated from the University of Delaware and now resides in Smyrna with his wife and two sons. Therefore, he is a trusted Delawarean who knows what clients, residents and business owners need and he is highly accessible.

Ryan and his company are excited to join the CDCC so that they can become “more involved with the community by networking with other local business owners and help provide safe, reliable, and professional tree care services to the residents of Central Delaware!”

For details about Fish Lawn and Tree, LLC, visit FishLawnandTree.com, or call (302) 383-4202 to begin solving your pruning needs and more. Please join us in welcoming Ryan Yoder and the Fish Lawn and Tree team into membership!



Introducing Energize Delaware!

Climate change, conserving energy, and sustainability are topics that have certainly come to the forefront of many discussions and initiatives for the future of Delaware – the state where most of us live, work and play. The average person may not know where to begin in trying to increase their energy efficiency to cut costs, save the planet, and work towards a better future for upcoming generations. The Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce (CDCC) is proud to have a 501(c)(3) in membership whose top priority is “helping you, your family, your commercial business, your farm, or your nonprofit organization save money and reduce energy consumption by becoming more energy efficient. We believe in Good Energy!”

Energize Delaware and Delaware Sustainable Energy Utility (DESEU) are based in Downtown Dover’s Duncan Center (500 W. Loockerman Street, Suite 400) and their mission is “to Inspire sustainable energy solutions for a thriving environment and economy.” Energize Delaware has 20 different programs that are well designed to offer assistance to fellow nonprofits, business owners, houses of worship, farms and homeowners. Each program is centered around energy-efficiency and renewable energy through

low-interest loans, grants, rebates, and incentives. All clients begin this journey with an energy assessment to determine the deficiencies and their efficiencies of buildings.

Energize Delaware was created in 2007 by the Delaware Legislature as the Delaware Sustainable Energy Utility, DBA Energize Delaware. In 2009 they formed a nonprofit and hired Anthony DePrima as the executive director. Over the years, Energize Delaware has distributed over \$50 million in low interest loans to help Delawareans and, because of this, people have called them a “Green Bank.” However, they go well beyond the confines of banking. They offer grants to nonprofits through their many programs which have resulted in a number of “green jobs” created. As they continue to grow, more green jobs will be created in Delaware.

Energize Delaware offers both residential and non-residential programs to execute their mission. Residents will want to look into home performance with ENERGY STAR for homeowners, residential solar loans, home energy efficiency loans, home energy counseling and checkups, and their empowerment grant/energy equity fund. Any of these programs could begin a household’s money-saving energy

efficiency journey.

Non-residential organizations and locations will want to learn more about Solar for Public School Districts, Pathways to Green Schools, Lights on Delaware Strong, Farm Program, Affordable Multifamily housing, and Delaware Property Assessed Clean Energy (D-PACE). These programs cater to the energy needs, not only the building, but the client’s budget as well.

While Energize Delaware’s programs are for all Delawareans, a number of them focus on low-to-moderate income families that have energy burdens or are at risk of environmental harm. Energize Delaware’s Empowerment Grant/Energy Equity Fund works with other nonprofit organizations to help make lives more comfortable.

Energize Delaware’s services are expansive, and more information can be found on 5 different websites. Interested parties are encouraged to begin learning more at their primary website: www.energizedelaware.org. Learn more about their Empowerment Grant Programs at www.EmpowermentGrantDE.org. If you’re particularly



interested in benefiting from solar energy, visit www.SolarDelaware.org or www.srecdelaware.com (for Solar Renewable Energy Credits [SRECs]). Additionally, Delawareans can save money by shopping for low-cost, high quality energy saving devices at www.EnergizeDelawareMarketplace.com.

Energize Delaware is excited to join the CDCC to further help businesses and residents in Central Delaware cut their utility bills by becoming more energy efficient. They are excited to stand out as a nonprofit that serves energy conscious Delawareans. Please join us in welcoming Energize Delaware into membership!

New Member Spotlights

Introducing Bayada Hospice for Kent County!

“Heroes on the Home Front” – these are the first words you will read when visiting www.bayada.com, the official website for BAYADA Hospice of Kent County – a new member of the Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce (CDCC). This phrase couldn’t be truer as we continue to navigate our ever-changing and growing world of healthcare needs in Kent County post-pandemic.

The pandemic highlighted the critical need for care of the state’s expanding elderly population, in all facets, from homecare, adult daycare, assisted living and more. We are in a pivotal workforce shift, and the future of healthcare for our loved ones is a top priority for the caring staff at BAYADA Hospice of Kent County.

BAYADA home care has been in business for an impressive 48 years, providing hospice care nationwide for 13 years. In the past year, they began providing these services to Kent. The CDCC is excited to welcome them to the area – and to support them as they support our substantial 55+ community and their families with life-changing care. Hospice care includes pain management, support to loved ones, medication, supplies,

and medical equipment. This includes nursing, aides, social work, therapy and physician support. They also provide volunteers, grief and bereavement services and spiritual support for affected families.

Clients, families and patients utilize BAYADA’s services at times in their lives when they need them the most. In addition to hospice care, this organization specializes in habilitation (a program that provides support to those with intellectual/developmental disabilities), personal care & companionship (help with at-home everyday activities like dressing, bathing and meal preparation, especially for families living with Alzheimer’s or dementia), adult care/nursing, and even pediatrics (the care for clients under the age of 18.)

The BAYADA team is dedicated to matching clients and their patients with the utmost diligence to maximize comfort and care. Their top priority is the “doing whatever it takes to ensure every client receives the very best care for their individual needs.”

The CDCC connected with Michelle Hood, the Marketing Manager for BAYADA hospice for Kent County. She has over 30 years of healthcare

experience in hospice, homecare, adult day care, assisted living, Medicaid/Medicare and social work. She is highly proficient in the healthcare industry and is more than qualified to share the message of BAYADA Hospice of Kent County. “I am married and have two adult children, one granddaughter and two dogs. I belong to the DHCN (Dignity Healthcare Network) I am an Ambassador for Lori’s Hands (a community health service-learning non-profit organization creating intergenerational partnerships between college students and community members with chronic illness), and recently joined the Delaware Quality of Life Coalition. In my free time I love to travel, go to the beach, and we recently bought a boat, so we plan to spend lots of time on it this summer.”

Michelle Hood was motivated to guide BAYADA Hospice of Kent County to join the CDCC in the efforts to meet new people and to increase their network in the area. “I also want to get the word out about our company and that we are now providing hospice services in Kent County,” added Hood.

The CDCC is excited to be along for the journey of BAYADA Hospice



of Kent County as they continue to provide exceptional, top-of-the-line care for our community. Thank you for being “Heroes on the Home Front” for Central Delaware – the work you do every day means so much!

For more details about BAYADA Hospice of Kent County, please visit www.bayada.com or give them a call 24/7 at (888) 433-5624. Please join us in welcoming Michelle Hood and the team at BAYADA Hospice of Kent County into membership!

Introducing Noiregoddess!



Hair is a way to express yourself. It can reflect how you feel, your lifestyle and certain characteristics about you. Your hair style can make you stand out, feel confident or adventurous. There is nothing quite like changing your hair-style to reflect how you feel when you need a change, or simply want to try something new. When you look good, you feel good, and hair is one way to portray that good feeling – whatever that looks like for you! The Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce is happy to introduce Noiregoddess!

Noiregoddess specializes in hair styling products and styles such as hair & scalp serum, weaves, closures & frontals, and high-quality wigs to take your look to the next level! Healthy hair begins with a healthy scalp – thankfully Noiregoddess has you covered with their hair & scalp serum. The owner and entrepreneur, Marie Fontaine St. Pierre, developed it years ago to address psoriasis that had hindered her for more than 10 years. No professional help or advised treatment relieved the itchiness and burning sensations on her scalp. Her serum worked wonders for her and has given her healthy hair. Her confidence has been restored and she is very excited to share the magic with anyone suffering from psoriasis, eczema, alopecia, and hair loss.

Once treating your hair and scalp with the tender love and care it needs, browse Noiregoddess’ selection of high-quality wigs, weaves and additions to protect your hair and make you look fabulous! St. Pierre has a variety of styles to choose from. She has t-wigs, Brazilian wigs, HD lace wigs

and headband wigs and more to keep you looking your best on the go!

“Our hair is 100% unprocessed raw virgin cuticle aligned hair. This type of hair is not altered by chemical treatment or by steam, the hair comes from the same individual or donor. The best way to increase the longevity of your raw virgin hair is to take care of it, like it grew out of your own scalp. The hair can be dyed, bleached, permed with zero to minimal shedding with the proper care,” advised St. Pierre on her official website.

St. Pierre began styling hair at the young age of 13 by watching her aunt braid her cousin’s hair. This is where her dream of founding a hair care company began. Coming from her beautiful home country, Haiti, to the United States as a child, she is fluent in Creole, French and English. Additionally, St. Pierre is also a realtor, and Del-Tech college student studying business administration, marketing and management. In her free time she enjoys singing, dancing, traveling and spending

time with friends and family, including her son and new puppy, Snow.

St. Pierre believes the CDCC to be an excellent place for businesses professionals to network and an excellent way to introduce local businesses such as hers. These were great motivators for her to join Noiregoddess into membership.

For more details about Noiregoddess, Marie Fontaine St. Pierre or her products, please visit www.noiregoddess.com or give her a call at (302) 373-9012. Please join the CDCC in welcoming Noiregoddess and Marie Fontaine St. Pierre into membership!



Member of the Month



Tell us a little about your business/organization: how did it begin; what are your services/products, etc.

Pugh's began serving the Dover and surrounding areas in 1945 as an Atlantic gas station, servicing automobiles. Pugh's Service is now in its third generation as a family-owned business, founded by Horace Pugh Sr. It was originally located where the TD Bank currently resides. In 1992, Pugh's changed locations, purchasing Miller's Lawnmowers located at 728 Leipsic Road. Since the purchase, Pugh's has enjoyed serving the communities of central Delaware for their automotive and small engine needs.

NAME: Mark & Patty Pugh

TITLE: Owners

BUSINESS: Pugh's Service

ADDRESS: 728 Leipsic Road
Dover, DE 19901

HOURS: 8am - 5pm Mon - Fri

PHONE: (302) 734-4231

WEBSITE: www.pughsservice.com

EMAIL: mark@pughserv.com or
patty@pughservice.com

Tell us about your role in the business/organization.

Similar to any small businesspersons, our roles are all-encompassing, but the most important responsibility we have is always serving our customers.

Tell us something that makes your business/organization unique.

We service any make or model of vehicle, as well as service most every type of small engine; all under one roof. Important note: while our techs are very well-trained and experienced in all areas, our techs typically specialize in one particular area (i.e. automotive techs work with automotive, and small engine techs with small engines).

What do you see for the future of your business/organization?

Staying small but nimble. I believe this model serves our customers best. They are our family and I always want them to feel just that way!

How has the Chamber helped your business/organization grow?

Clearly our company is well-established, but times and people change. Networking is key and the Chamber does an outstanding job in this field.

What is your best advice to other businesses/organizations?

Customers first, always! Take care of them, and when tough times come, they will take care of you. Treat your employees like you would like to be treated. They represent you and reflect your commitment to the world.

Ambassador's Corner

Amanda Perdue

Hi there! My name is Amanda Perdue, and I am so honored to recently be named a CDCC Ambassador. The Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce is an integral part of our Kent County Community, and I became more involved with this organization because I love our community and believe in the CDCC's mission.

Through avenues such as the CDCC's Legislative Committee, the CDCC's Ambassador Program, and the CDCC's Leadership Central Delaware initiative, I have had the pleasure to engage in the community and represent the community for the greater good of Kent County.

In addition to working for the Delaware Breast Cancer Coalition, supporting survivors and bringing awareness to a

healthier community, I have recently begun at Bayhealth's Cancer Institute as a Clinical Trials Associate. I have the pleasure to serve on the Board for the Delaware Prostate Cancer Coalition and actively serve as an Honorary Commander with the 436th Medical Group. In addition, I participate on the Department of Defense's Congressionally Directed Medical Research Panel, serve on Delaware's Cancer Consortium, and was named 40 Under 40 in Cancer in the United States (2022).

Kent County is such a wonderful place to live, raise a family, and become engaged within the community. My words of encouragement: Go out there, explore, make friends, get involved, and just take in the beauty of this wonderful county!

Congratulations - You're a 10!

The Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce of Commerce is excited to introduce a monthly feature for 2022 in the Chamber Connections. "Congratulations - You're a 10!" is designed to recognize, congratulate and highlight recently renewed members who are celebrating membership anniversaries in increments of 10.



Thank You for Your Renewal!

RENEWALS FOR JANUARY

NAME of COMPANY	# of YEARS	NAME of COMPANY	# of YEARS
Citizens Bank	51	Representative Lyndon D. Yearick	8
Kraft Heinz Company	51	AAA Midatlantic	7
Dover Federal Credit Union		Affordable Business Systems	7
– Headquarters	50	All States Construction	
Willis Chevrolet, Inc.	45	Company, Inc.	7
Delaware Division of Small Business	42	BDK, Inc.	7
Becker Morgan Group, Inc.	30	Delaware Transit Corp/	
Landmark Science and Engineering	30	DART First State	6
Dover Family Chiropractic	29	Delaware Choral Society	6
Patterson Schwartz	29	Wesley United Methodist Church	6
Delmarva Underwriters, Ltd.	28	Alpine and Rafetto Orthodontics	5
City of Harrington	28	George Bailey	5
i.g. Burton & Co., Inc	27	DE Turf Sports Complex	5
Town of Smyrna	27	Richard Downes	5
Hampton Inn – Dover	26	Ingleside Homes Inc.	5
The Delaware State Fair, Inc.	25	PS Surety Consulting, LLC	5
A & H Uniforms	20	Fireside Partners, Inc.	4
Incorporating Services, Ltd.	19	Heartland Payment Systems	4
Comfort Inn & Suites Dover	15	Humana – Lisa Parker	4
HandyTube	15	NextHome Preferred	4
Dan Mikkelson	15	G. Fedale Roofing & Siding	
Telepathy Networks, LLC	15	– Wilmington	3
PARASEC – PARACORP Inc.	14	Liza Orlando, Realtor	
First State CPAs	13	– Keller Williams Realty	3
The Kritter Sitter, LLC	13	Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church – Dover	3
Westover Companies		Vaughan	3
– Lake Club Apts	13	Barzey Enterprise LLC	2
All Restored Inc.	12	Camden Walk In	1
Best Western Galaxy Inn	12	DE Advisory Council on Career and	
Pinnacle Rehabilitation		Technical Education	1
& Health Center	12	Delaware Diagnostic Labs	1
Auntie Anne's Soft Pretzels	11	Fowler Group Keller Williams Realty	1
ShureLine Electrical	11	PACE Your Life	1
Bright Future Pediatrics	10	Rely Tool Supply, LLC	1
Delaware Public Media	10	Roberts Insurance, Inc.	1
Delmarva Benefit Group	9	SUMURI LLC	1
Harvest Years Senior Center	9		
Two Men And A Truck	8		

New Members

Aetna Ms. Amira Glover 103 West Crail Court Middletown, DE 19709 302-357-8035	Noiregoddess LLC Ms. Marie Fontaine St. Pierre 14 Wheeler Circle Smyrna, DE 19977 302-373-9012	SunWise Family Dermatology & Surgery Mr. Jim LaRusso 260 Beiser Blvd., Suite 202 Dover, DE 19904 302-364-2000
Bayada Hospice Ms. Michelle Hood 4250 Lancaster Pike, Suite 308 Wilmington, DE 19805 302-579-6493	Orbit Energy & Power Ms. Makenzie Rae 570 Mantua Blvd., Suite 1 Sewell NJ 08080 717-723-8864	The Eduruke Group Ms. Chardae Eduruke 194 Christiana River Dr. Clayton, DE 19938 302-233-8230
Fish Lawn and Tree, LLC Mr. Ryan Yoder PO Box 471 Townsend, DE 19734 302-332-2693	Sam's Club Ms. Christina Feaster 1572 N. DuPont Hwy. Dover, DE 19901 302-678-4220	Uglobal Ms. Mariam Ali 2151 Michelson Drive, Suite 290 Irvine, CA 92612 973-917-8244
Motto Mortgage Prosperity Ms. Heather Halliburton 1434 S Farmview Drive Dover, DE 19904 302-363-1554	Service Source Mr. Henry Ritzberg Dover AFB, DE 19902 302-222-1720	

Coffee On Us!

SPONSORED BY
Tre Sorelle Dolce

The Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce would love to connect you with something delicious! The photograph on our front pageheader changes each month, depicting picturesque and unique locations right here in Central Delaware. These photos are the subject of our monthly "Coffee On Us" contest.

If you recognize the location of the header picture on our front page, be the FIRST PERSON to CALL the CDCC Office (302-734-7513) with the correct answer and you will win a \$10 gift card to:



You'll also see your picture and your company name on our Facebook page – and, of course, you'll win bragging rights for the month!

The winner of the last "Coffee on Us" Contest was **Stacey Wilkins of Del-One Federal Credit Union** for correctly identifying **302 Aquaponics**. Congratulations, Stacey – and thank you for playing our game!

Please note that the same person is qualified to win the Coffee on Us Contest only twice per calendar year.

