



Chamber Connections

Vol. 46 // No. 7

cdcc.net

July 2023

CORNERSTONE MEMBERS



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An Evening Spent with Kent County Stars!

The Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce (CDCC) completed its fiscal 2022-2023 year with a star-studded evening on Wednesday, June 28, 2023, at the elegant Bally's Dover Casino Resort – Rollins Center. The CDCC's Annual Awards for Excellence Celebration serves as the culminating event for this non-profit organization whose vision is "to be THE essential resource for the development of businesses in Central Delaware!" It was truly a night not to miss and to be remembered

forever by the 300 beautiful guests in attendance.

The CDCC welcomed members, the extended community, family, and friends, to an evening of celebrating the excellent accomplishments of Central Delaware's business community. It was amazing to relish the moment with some of the stars of Kent County; to take a moment to pause and reflect on the past year. The CDCC deeply appreciates the opportunity to award and acknowledge the nominees in the Small

Business of the Year, Large Employer of the Year, Young Professional of the Year categories, and more. It was incredible to see a room full of guests cheering on their peers, meeting new people, and reveling in the awesome business community that is Central Delaware.

Attendees mixed, mingled, ate, and drank amongst the new 28 Leadership Central Delaware (LCD) alumni as they ceremoniously

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New Residents Move "Inn"!



On Wednesday, July 26, from 5 to 7 p.m., members and guests of the Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce (CDCC) will "move in" to the Residence Inn by Marriot (600 Jefferic Blvd. in Dover) for their monthly Sunset Business Mixer – the premier networking event of the

Chamber!

The CDCC's Sunset Business Mixer is known for bringing the business community together for valuable connections, relationship-building, support of a local business, and so much fun!

The CDCC, our members, and potential members are very excited to feel at home with the awesome staff at Residence Inn by Marriot. We are sure they will do a hospitable job of welcoming us to their beautiful facility supporting Central Delaware's tourist economy. Our friends at the Residence Inn by Marriot will be able to share information about the

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Coming This August: A Special 2-in-1 Networking Event!



The Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce (CDCC) staff hopes you are staying safe and enjoying the summer season. There is so much to do during the Summer in Central

Delaware, and we know you're busy soaking up the sun, vacationing, and working. However, we want to put a special networking event on your schedules before it gets booked. Save the Date – Wednesday, August 30, from 4 to 7 p.m. for the CDCC's Sunset Business Mixer AND Member 2 Member Expo (M2M)! This 2-in-1 event will be outdoors at the beautiful Pizzadili's Deli and Catering/Winery (1683 Peach Basket Road, Felton, Del.).

For those of you who are familiar

with the premiere networking event of the CDCC, the Sunset Business Mixer, you will be in for a surprise this month! August will be a special month because we are combining our monthly Sunset Business Mixer with our Member 2 Member Expo – a wonderful opportunity for member businesses to proudly showcase themselves with a tabletop display.

The Member 2 Member Expo is a collective chance to represent your business with a beautiful, in-person

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Dina's Digest



PRESIDENT
Dina Vendetti

Another Year in the Books!

On June 30th, another amazing and event-filled Chamber year came to a celebratory conclusion. This year, which began for the CDCC on July 1, 2022, was filled with energy, activities, events, and connections – all stories in the making! It gave us much to celebrate as it went whizzing by at lightning speed. And as it came to an end, a new fiscal year, marking the beginning of the next Chamber year, began. With that in mind, I wish you a warm Happy New Year!

As we said good-bye to fiscal year 2022-23, we couldn't help but spend some time looking back. This year finally saw people emerging from their homes and offices to enjoy in-person events. Each gathering seemed like a grand reunion complete with long conversations and big hugs. We were thrilled to see so many in attendance at our monthly Sunset Business mixers and other activities. As we came together, it was evident that we really missed each other – a true sign of what it means to be a community. This year held many moments of accomplishment and success. While we can't list them all in this limited space, here are a few examples of what marked our year.

Late last summer, we wrapped up our work with the Kent County Small Business Grants. This program was a collaboration among the CDCC, Kent County Tourism, and Kent County Levy Court and was funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). At the end of the program, \$2.4 million had been granted to about 150 small businesses in Central Delaware. As grateful recipients came to collect their checks, there were many tears, many hugs, and many who simply said, "You saved my business." As it turns out, those grants served as the very RESCUE they were created to

be. This kind of real-time help continues to be a remarkable specialty of the CDCC as THE essential resource for the development of businesses in Central Delaware.

After the same workforce shortages that were experienced by many of you, we worked to rebuild our staff. With the hiring of two employees last October, we were excited to be once again fully staffed! We have spent time learning to work together and have gone from being individuals to becoming a team.

This past Fall, the CDCC embarked on an upgrade of its technology equipment with new laptop computers and a personal virtual network (VPN) – all designed to allow the staff members to work off site when necessary to better serve our members. We added newly leased printers and worked with Kent County Tourism to add an 85" big screen TV to our building's conference room.

This Spring saw the creation of a new Strategic Plan for the future of our Chamber. As we move forward, we will be focusing on providing members with the resources they need, growing partnerships in the community, and continuing to provide events that draw people together, provide information, and create strong networks. All of this is designed to assist members as they work to grow, expand, and succeed. We are filled with excited anticipation of the year ahead – but as always, we are mostly excited to be entering this new year with each of you.

Thank you for an amazing year, now in the books – and for your partnership as we enter the adventure of a new year! Stay tuned – there's plenty more to come!

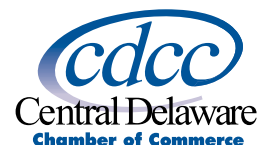
Calendar of Events

JULY

- Tuesday, July 4**
Independence Day
Office Closed
- Tuesday, July 11**
Professional Power-Up LIVE! (YPS)
12 - 1 pm
Biggs Museum of American Art
- Wednesday, July 12**
Marketing Committee Meeting
10 - 11 am
via Zoom
- Thursday, July 13**
Member Orientation
12 pm - 1:30 pm
via Zoom
- Tuesday, July 18**
LCD Steering Committee Meeting
12 - 1 pm
CDCC Conference Room
- Wednesday, July 26**
Ambassador Committee Meeting
4:30 pm
Residence Inn
- Wednesday, July 26**
Sunset Business Mixer
5 - 7 pm
Residence Inn

AUGUST

- Thursday, Aug. 3**
Kent County Open for Business
8:30 - 10 am
Kent County Levy Court
- Tuesday, Aug. 8**
CDCC Board Meeting
7:30 - 8:30 am
Faw Casson
- Tuesday, Aug. 8**
Professional Power-Up Online
12 - 1 pm
via Zoom
- Wednesday, Aug. 9**
Marketing Committee Meeting
10 - 11 am
via Zoom
- Thursday, Aug. 10**
Member Orientation
8:30 - 10 am
via Zoom
- Tuesday, Aug. 15**
LCD Steering Committee Meeting
12 - 1 pm
CDCC Conference Room
- Monday, Aug. 28**
CDCC Executive Committee Meeting
8 - 10 am
CDCC Conference Room
- Wednesday, Aug. 30**
Ambassador Committee Meeting
3:30 pm
Pizzadili Winery
- Wednesday, Aug. 30**
Sunset Business Mixer / Member 2 Member Expo
4 - 7 pm
Pizzadili Winery



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.

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POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to Chamber News,
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Subscription Price:
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(included in membership dues)

Periodical Postage Paid at
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The CDCC is THE essential resource for the development of businesses in Central Delaware.

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Success is More Than a Bottom-Line Proposition

Chesapeake Utilities Corporation's Sustainability Report offers a bigger picture.

Today's investors are looking beyond the bottom line of short-term returns to consider companies' environmental stewardship, relationships with employees, customers and communities and corporate governance records. Environmental, social and governance factors give investors insight into corporate priorities, strategy and management practices, and while not a part of the traditional balance sheet, they offer a broader picture of potential long-term value.

Sustainability reports have become as much a fixture in the scope of investor relations as the time-honored annual report, and both have important stories to tell about corporate health. While one focuses on financial success, the other focuses on how business is done – and transparency in both arenas leads to responsible investing.

Chesapeake Utilities Corporation published its second Sustainability Report in May 2023. The online report shares how we're delivering on our commitments to sound environmental, social and governance practices while leaning into our vision to deliver energy that contributes to a more sustainable future.

Our 2022 Sustainability Report:

- Explains our sustainability strategy and details our renewable energy portfolio
- Reports a 16% decrease in our combined Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions as compared to 2019
- Broadens our disclosure on human capital management and

diversity initiatives

- Outlines our new Companywide Giving Policy, which includes four focus areas: safety and health, community development, education and environmental stewardship
- Details our safety and Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) programs
- Enhances our disclosures by including a Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB) midstream data table, a Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) table and workforce diversity data that aligns with the EEO-1 report

Throughout each section of the report are examples of how we incorporate our organizational imperatives – safety, team, service, improve, grow – into our sustainability strategy. These imperatives are central to our success in achieving our goals and keeping our commitments. Highlights of the report include:

Our Foundation for Operational Excellence: Exemplary corporate governance is at the core of our business philosophy and success. Last year, we received six major awards for outstanding corporate governance and established an officer-level position responsible for overseeing our dedicated enterprise risk management team.

Safely and Reliably Delivering Energy: We are focused on the safety of our people, the communities we serve and the reliability of our

systems. Our long record of safe operations has consistently helped us earn national awards honoring our commitment to the safety of our customers, communities and employees. This report details our safety programs.

Investing in Our People: Our long-term success depends on the engagement, skills and entrepreneurial spirit of our team members. We have increased efforts to ensure that we can attract, develop and retain talent by providing a meaningful, supportive work experience. In 2022, we established a chief diversity and engagement officer position, and increased the number of employee resource groups.

Investing in Our Communities: Chesapeake Utilities is committed to engaging with the communities where we live and work. In 2022, we gave a total of \$850K in charitable donations and community sponsorships within our four focus areas – safety and health, community development, education and environmental stewardship.

Environmental Stewardship: Our sustainable businesses stretch across the entire value chain. From gathering to processing, or generation to transmission and distribution, we have various opportunities to support the emission reduction efforts of our customers and our own operations.

Throughout the report, you'll also find images of the diverse landscapes of our operating territories, taken by our own talented team members.



In keeping with sustainability goals, this report is available as a PDF in the Corporate Responsibility section of the Chesapeake Utilities Corporation website. By communicating our commitments in this report, we equip our investors, employees, customers and the communities we serve with critical information about the priorities that drive our business strategies.

View the full report at www.chpk.com/sustainability-2022.

NEW RESIDENTS

Continued from Page 1

inn such as the amenities provided like their fitness center and pool, meeting & banquet spaces, Wi-Fi, and more. Tours of the meeting rooms and guest rooms will be available as requested during this Mixer as well. If you have never been to the Residence Inn by Marriott, we highly suggest you attend this night with your community!

The evening's activities will include a 50/50 raffle, Member of the Month drawing, door prizes, food by Skyline Catering, and special goody bags courtesy of our amazing hosts for the evening. Be sure to bring cash to purchase your lucky 50/50 tickets.

The CDCC loves to see the room filled with like-minded local professionals – like YOU – engaging with other members and learning about their businesses to grow and

strengthen Central Delaware. The CDCC would like to thank the accommodating and welcoming staff at the Residence Inn by Marriott in Dover in advance for a great evening in support of the community.

The CDCC invites you to make yourself at home with us for July 26's Sunset Business Mixer at the Residence Inn by Marriott in Dover from 5 to 7 p.m. Potential Members – interested in this event by the CDCC? Remember you can

attend two Mixers before requiring membership. Guests are encouraged to bring a door prize to share with a lucky winner. Don't forget your business cards!

For more information or to register for this Mixer, please visit cdcc.net or call (302) 734-7513. For more information about the Residence Inn by Marriott in Dover, Delaware, please visit www.marriott.com/dovri or call (302) 677-0777. We hope to see you there!

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Popular Canadian Tex-Mex brand coming to Dover

R&R Commercial Realty brokered space for BurritoBar



Buildout on a new Tex-Mex restaurant in Dover's Capital Station shopping center on Division Street and DuPont Highway is slated to begin in July. Founded in Toronto in 2005, the quick service restaurant franchise has grown to become Canada's largest Tex-Mex brand with over 250 locations across the country. Known as Bar-Burrito in the north, it will rebrand as BurritoBar as it spreads into the U.S. market.

"It's very exciting because this location will be among the first in the US," said local franchisee Manish Patel. "Right now, there are only two in Michigan, with a third opening in the next few weeks."

Patel noted that the brand is geared towards an aggressive expansion in the US in the coming years. The brand has already taken the first step by entering into a master franchise agreement to add 90 new locations in Florida.

Patel, a co-owner of four Jake's

Wayback Burger locations in the state, is confident that BurritoBar will be a perfect match for the bustling location in Dover. With its prime traffic-heavy spot, Patel sees great potential for the success of BurritoBar.

"There are other places in Dover you can get tacos and burritos, but I think BurritoBar's menu is very unique," he said. "They have their own sauces and salsa and they do a panini press style of burrito that helps keep everything together – it's pressed tight enough for you to eat on the go! They also have seafood options like their bang bang shrimp."

Assuming there are no significant setbacks, Patel believes the location will be ready for its grand opening in October as planned.

Charles Rodrigues of R&R Commercial Realty, who brokered the deal, noted the recent addition is one step closer to completely filling the large shopping center.



"Moving BurritoBar in leaves only a few thousand square feet of retail space left at Capital Station," he said. "The center has a very strong mix of businesses now and attracts consistent traffic. It's really come a long way from its days as the shuttered Playtex factory."

For additional information about R&R Commercial Realty and its extensive inventory of commercial property, visit www.randrcommercialrealty.com or contact 302-674-3400 or info@randrcommercialrealty.com.

The LCD Class of 2023's Last Class Day!

The LCD Class of 2023 brought the energy for their final Class Day – Energy & Environment Day! The day kicked off in Chesapeake Utilities' beautiful conference room for a light breakfast before presentations and Q&A with our featured panelists: Dave Detrick, Manager of Growth and Retention at Chesapeake; Heather Contant, Director of Government & Community Relations at the Delaware Municipal Electric Corporation (DEMEC); Lauren Irby, Manager of Public Relations & Community Affairs at the Delaware Electric Co-op; and Ed Jackson, CEM of Affinity Energy Management. The class asked questions pertaining to their personal energy needs/consumption and for their businesses. They were happy to hear about the wonderful initiatives in place by the panelists' companies for sustainability and community outreach.

To follow the panel, David T. Stevenson, Director of the Center for Energy & Environment at the Caesar Rodney Institute, was present to present a bigger picture of current and future energy use of Kent County. Stevenson was a new addition to the program that offered thought-provoking pieces to the class for further research of their own, especially regarding new electric vehicle legislation.

Next, the class walked across the Chesapeake campus to Safety Town – Chesapeake's life-size training facility for technicians. They received a warm welcome in Safety Town by fellow LCD alums as they learned about the dangers of gas in your home, what to do in case you smell gas, and how their company trains their employees adequately for real-world circumstances. From Safety Town the class boarded the

bus to Chesapeake's CNG (Compressed Natural Gas) Station – which produces significantly fewer pollutants than gasoline and fuels Chesapeake's (and other companies) vehicles.

On the bus, the students were transported to DEMEC for lunch by Woody's on Wheels as they heard from two Delaware Solid Waste Authority representatives and Drew Slater, Director of the Delaware Sustainable Energy Utility (DESEU)/ Energize Delaware. The class learned about DSWA's impact on the environment, how to properly recycle, and their future sustainability initiatives to minimize our trash's impact on Kent County. Slater brought company swag for the class as he led a Q&A session about what Energize Delaware does, their various energy-efficiency programs for residents and com-

panies, how to lessen Delaware's carbon footprint.

This led to a walking tour of DEMEC's Beasley Station to see how they serve power to over 99,000 residents and businesses in the community. The LCD class was up close and personal with the power plant to see how they conduct their mission: "to support our members' success and relevance, DEMEC delivers excellence in competitive, reliable, sustainable power supply and innovative services, advancing the benefits of community-owned utilities." It was a highlight for many in the class to see and learn how they deliver energy and the people behind the operation.

Finally, an already eventful Energy & Environment Day got more eventful at the Kent County Wastewater treatment facility in Milford. The class was met with the

facilities' oracle, the passionately knowledgeable William Vincent. He walked the class through their outdoor operation of turning sewage into usable water and fertilizer. This facility has been visited by engineers from all around the world because it is one the first locations to utilize Severn Trent's Microdynamic UV light system to disinfect the water – which is the largest in the world. The class did a great job bearing the unpleasant smell and gained valuable insight into the team of 50 employees processing 14 million gallons per day and

8,000 tons of biosolids a year – fascinating!

The Class circled back to Chesapeake Utilities to round out this full day of Energy & Environment, and their LCD class day experience! The CDCC would like to thank this group of 28 inquisitive individuals for sticking with us through this wonderful experience, especially when it got unpleasantly hot and smelly! They are clear for Graduation! With a bittersweet tone, this marks the conclusion of the LCD Class of 2023's season. Congrats, new leaders – you did it!

Thank you to our Sponsors!
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LCD '23 – What Did It All Mean?

The Leadership Central Delaware (LCD) Class of 2023 concluded their year with their Closing Retreat on June 9, 2023, at Harvest Ridge Winery. The purpose of the Closing Retreat was for the 28 new leaders in our community to summarize, reflect, and ponder on the question, “What did it all mean?” The LCD Class of 2023 reluctantly closed the door on this unique experience, but not without the opening a few more. The Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce stands firm in the fact that this is just the beginning for this amazing group of people brought together by a shared desire to be community leaders!

The day began with pastries and coffee and a touching presentation from Tammy Ordway, a Central Delaware native from Faw Casson, who spoke about the importance of building connections and remaining engaged in the community. She shared her deeply personal story of overcoming uncomfortable situations and barriers. Her presentation moved all the hearts and minds in the room with the gentle reminder to always continue to be yourself, no matter who is around, and to embrace uncertainty. Ordway is a role model for staying involved with the community and how it will always pay off in priceless ways.

Javier Santana, owner and founder of High Ground Creative, a full-service Digital Marketing and Advertising Company, was next to share his candid expertise on Cre-

ativity and Imagination. He reminded the Class about how important it is to be creative, think outside the box, and explore the unknown. He debunked the myth that creativity only manifests itself through the arts and the common misconception between being artistic and creative. Javier explained how everyone has the ability to be creative in any industry, any task, anywhere. It is a muscle that many great leaders have developed, and he urged the class to take that same energy into their daily lives moving forward.

Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce President, Dr. Dina Vendetti, led the class in sharing their best and most memorable moments throughout the 10-month journey they just successfully completed together. Emotions were high as the class shared specific moments that will stick with them forever. Questions such as “which day was your favorite and why,” “how might you stay in touch with your classmates,” “what advice would you give to the next class,” and of course “what did it all mean?” were answered.

The LCD Class of 2023 has seen, heard, and experienced many places; therefore, it is so important to take a step back and reflect on the collective experience they had just gone through together. They now have a shared experience that will shape their lives in any way they choose – that’s nothing to overlook.

Last but certainly not least, Rev. John G. Moore Sr. graced the class

for an awe-inspiring and enthusiastic presentation on “Continuing Your Leadership Journey.” He shared his one-of-a-kind delivery, exemplifying the leadership of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Class members were on their feet as they received John’s genuine love of life, uplifting others, and meaning behind having a D.R.E.A.M. (Dedication, Resilience, Enthusiasm, Attitude, Motivation). It was a moment to be ingrained in their minds forever.

The Closing Retreat was just 2 weeks before the class was set to ceremoniously graduate at the CDCC’s Annual Awards for Excellence Celebration. In the air of graduations, there is this bittersweet feeling of mourning the end of an era, along with the ambition of wondering what’s next.

So, what could be next? The class was eager to hear about the amazing future opportunities available at the statewide leadership program, Leadership Delaware, Inc. Jen Cohan, CEO, was present to explain the advantageous program and all it offers. Her special guest, Dennis Spence, LCD Class of 2022 alum, current LDI student of Century Engineering, was the perfect person to share firsthand about this possible next step.

Following Cohan (in place of Dr. Kathy Kennedy-Ratajack, Dean of the College of Business at Wilmington University) was CDCC President Dr. Dina Vendetti to

congratulate the class and share the significance of LCD alumni now having 3 credits to exercise towards a degree at WilmU.

The LCD Class of 2023 sealed the deal with a toast and slideshow presentation to commemorate their pursuit of knowledge, relationships, legacy, and of course, leadership. The CDCC thanks you for allowing us to be a small part of your journey as leaders here in Central Delaware. Thank you to this year’s program sponsors, without whom none of this would be possible: Bally’s Dover Casino Resort, Bayhealth, Delaware Electric Co-Op, Delaware Municipal Electric Corporation (DEMEC), Delaware Solid Waste Authority, Delaware State University, Delaware Technical Community College, Faw Casson, Jonathan L. Parker & Associates, LLC, Kent County Levy Court, Kent County Tourism Corporation, Parkview RV Center, Payroll Management Assistance, Roy Klein Education Foundation, and Wilmington University.

Congratulations to the LCD Class of 2023!

“Leadership is not about titles, positions, or flowcharts. It is about one life influencing another.”

—John C. Maxwell



NETWORKING EVENT

Continued from Page 1

tabletop display. Showcase your valuable goods and services to your fellow CDCC members, potential members, and friends while meeting quality leads. Get your name, image, and brand recognized as you meet, mingle, and share your story with like-minded business professionals. Be a friendly and knowledgeable representative of your business at the CDCC's Member 2

Member Expo and Sunset Business Mixer as you meet new people, gain exposure, and make valuable face-to-face interactions with potential clients and business partners – all while having fun!

The duality of this event highly anticipates a strong turnout because of the consistent attendance of members and friends at a normal CDCC Sunset Business Mixer. As usual, please do not forget to bring your business cards, happy attitudes, and cash to enter our 50/50

raffle. Be prepared to possibly go home with cool door prizes, new friends, colleagues, and cash! It'll be double the networking fun this time around with the addition of our Member 2 Member Expo – you don't want to miss this one!

If you are interested in increasing your brand's exposure, deeply consider purchasing a table-top display for your business at this Member 2 Member Expo. Do not hesitate to act – space is limited and fleeting fast! The CDCC has a very limited

number of tables to offer, so seize this opportunity while spaces are still readily available. To register your business for a table at the low rate of \$125, please give the CDCC office a call at (302) 734-7513 or visit our website at www.cdcc.net for more information on this event. We can't wait to see you on August 30, from 4 to 7 p.m. at Pizzadili's Deli and Catering/Winery. SAVE THE DATE – CALL TODAY!

Congratulations to the LCD Class of 2023!

Kent County, the State of Delaware, and the WORLD – please give a warm welcome to your newest leaders! The Leadership Central Delaware (LCD) Class of 2023 officially graduated on the evening of Wednesday, June 28, 2023, at the Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce's (CDCC) Annual Awards for Excellence Celebration at Bally's Dover Casino Resort-Rolins Center! Twenty-eight new leaders proudly walked across the stage before 300 Chamber members, friends, and family to receive their long-awaited diplomas. The CDCC is proud of this full-class graduation!

Central Delaware and the CDCC are blessed to have this class of driven, diverse, and dynamic individuals successfully complete the Diamond program of the Chamber. Their inquisitiveness, enthusiasm to learn and lead, and generosity exemplify what it truly means to be a leader in the community. It has been the ultimate privilege to have an opportunity to work, live, and play alongside the LCD Class of 2023 over the course of 10 months. The CDCC is so grateful to have had the chance to get to know each student personally, grow with them, and help them create relationships to last a lifetime – that is what LCD is all about! The CDCC marvels at the evolution of 28 strangers into a family. It has been a beautiful journey to witness 28 people from completely different professional and personal backgrounds, bond, impact their community, and take charge of the future.

The Leadership Central Delaware Class of 2023 received a behind-the-scenes look at Kent County and the CDCC cannot wait to hear about how they use their new network, experiences, and ambition wherever

life takes them. Each month, they were exposed to tours, presentations, and activities covering the most significant Economic Drivers in Kent County from Agri-Tourism, Government & Politics, to Education and Health & Human Services, to name a few. They were introduced to the prominent leaders across Kent County, made partnerships, and received answers to any questions they had – and they had many! The CDCC (especially LCD Director, Cleo Bell) will forever be impacted and inspired by each of these bright, shining stars; we will forever remember the countless laughs, smiles, and photos of this uniquely Delawarean experience.

On behalf of the CDCC and Central Delaware community, it has been a pleasure to facilitate the development of this Class's personal relationships, leaderships skills, and styles. The CDCC would like to commend the LCD Class of 2023 for their hard work, dedication, and openness to this extraordinary experience. Rest assured - Central Delaware is in great hands with these 28 new leaders in our community, paving the way for years to come. LCD '23- The CDCC cannot wait to hear all about the amazing things you will do. To the LCD Class of 2023, we know this is bittersweet, however, we know we will see you again very soon because you've joined a network of over 500+ Alumni here to support your journey. Every ending offers a chance at a new beginning – seize all that life has to offer you, go forth and conquer, knowing the CDCC and your community will always have your back! Congratulations to the LCD Class of 2023 – We are so proud of you!



DRUM ROLL PLEASE...

Now Presenting the Leadership Central Delaware Class of 2023:

Logan Anderson,
Delaware State News

Jamie Como,
Chesapeake Utilities Corporation

Danielle Conklin,
Dedicated to Women

Brianna Felts,
First Command
Financial Services

Keshawna Fuller,
Central Delaware
Habitat for Humanity

Dunkia Gilliam-Brown,
Bally's Dover Casino Resort

Tenish Gregory,
CenDel Foundation

Carrie Hart, Bayhealth

Tyler Hartman,
Century Engineering

Shannon Henry,
Delaware State University

Nicole Hercules,
Dover Federal Credit Union

Esosa Iriowen,
Mark Group Companies, LLC

Shantel Jonas,
Dover Federal Credit Union

Melinda Levasseur,
Bally's Dover Casino Resort

Katie Macklin,
Alzheimer's Association Delaware
Valley Chapter

Jessica Main,
Raymond F. Book
& Associates CPAs

Angela Nartowicz,
Dover Air Force Base

Travis Neal,
Del-One Federal Credit Union

Alicia Porter,
Benton & Shockley Law, P.A.

Crystal Riley,
Del-One Federal Credit Union

Rachel Rohm,
Kent County Tourism Corporation

Tetra Shockley,
Benton & Shockley Law, P. A.

Christopher Stahl,
DE Advisory Council
on Career & Technical Education

Chase Thompson, Advantech

Windy Thomson,
Harrington Raceway & Casino

James Tompkins, Bayhealth

Stacey Wilkins,
Del-One Federal Credit Union

Amy Zook,
Chesapeake Utilities Corporation

Oh, the power that lives within these names, within this class!

If you or someone you know would like to know more about the Leadership Central Delaware program from the Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce, please do not hesitate to visit www.cdcc.net or give the CDCC office a call at (302) 734-7513. Together we can uplift, learn, and lead for a brighter future for Central Delaware!

Member News

Dover to See \$5.7M in Building Improvements

Submitted by the Downtown Dover Partnership



The Downtown Dover Partnership (DDP) just presented a very large check to Doug Ferris, owner of Coney Island Grill on Lookerman Street. Ferris is the first recipient of the funds that have been made available to downtown business owners who are making critical improvements to their very old buildings. The goal of making these improvements now is to get them ready them for leasing alongside new construction that will come over the next few years as a result of the new downtown Dover master plan.

Last June 2022, in anticipation of receiving the completed master plan and with an eye toward ensuring that implementation of that plan was immediate upon its delivery, the DDP sought and received \$1.2 million dollars from the State of Delaware Community Reinvestment Fund. With the funds, the DDP created the Critical Improvements Program, the purpose of which is to help current property owners in the Downtown Development District bring their buildings up to current standards in life safety and ADA compliance, and even to install commercial kitchens so that more restaurants can locate in the business district.

Further, these improvements will help to move vacant and underutilized buildings to occupancy, as the funds will be dispersed only after buildings are improved and leases are in place with qualified, sustainable tenants. In Doug Ferris' case, the building was vacant for 16 years.

Ferris, owner of 108 W. Lookerman St., was the first recipient of funds from this new program and received \$50,000 for completing a full renovation of the first-floor commercial space into a Coney Island style grill complete with a visible commercial kitchen, ADA-compliant rest rooms, a marble slab bar style counter, and a take-out window, resembling the traditional grills of the namesake. He also renovated two upper story apartments that were leased prior

to completion, attesting to the need for residential apartments in central Dover. This building was vacant for at least 16 years prior to his purchase.

"The story to opening a Coney Island hotdog grill began more than a decade ago when my friend and I agreed that when we retire, we would open," Ferris said. "I was more interested in the real estate and as I inquired about a vacant property downtown, I was told to speak to the DDP." As a result, DDP Operations Manager Tina Bradbury advised Ferris on processes and funding opportunities over several years' time and until completion of the major overhaul of the property.

According to Bradbury, COVID and post-COVID issues with availability and inflated cost of building supplies, lack of laborers to do the construction, changes in code requirements and infrastructure issues made for an especially challenging renovation. "Projects on older historic buildings here in Dover often require both patience and adaptability throughout the process. Original funding sources may not come to fruition or they may be stretched, but it's necessary to ensure the project is fully capitalized," Bradbury explained. "Secure funding makes a challenging project a lot less challenging!"

To lessen debt service and in addition to the Critical Improvements Program funds, Bradbury was able to help Ferris coalesce multiple funding sources including private capital, Downtown Development District (DDD) rebates, a county match to the DDD, city incentives, and several DDP grant programs. In some cases, philanthropic and federal grants or subsidies can also help to build the proformas necessary to bring these kinds of projects across the finish line. Ferris said the Critical Improvements grant certainly lessened the blow when the extensive work necessary to bring the building up to code caused the project to be over budget.

"The DDP Board of Directors recently approved allocations totaling \$1.185 to qualified applicants representing ten properties on Lookerman Street and nearby in

the designated Downtown Development District," noted Executive Director Diane Laird. "These funds are vital to encourage reinvestment into this district, which is considered the City of Dover's high priority target area for redevelopment due to disinvestment over time and the resulting challenges, such as high vacancy and old buildings that are in great disrepair."

Each \$1 allocated from the Critical Improvements Program is expected to leverage over \$5 from private/other sources, and will result in a total projected investment of \$5.7M by a target date of December 2024. Additional property owners have expressed the need to continue this important program, thus the DDP is seeking additional funds to rehydrate the nearly \$1.2 that has been allocated to date.

The Downtown Dover Partnership is committed to driving an improved quality of life for residents and visitors, through collective collaboration, economic development and promotion of downtown Dover's unique historic properties. Call 302-678-2940 or visit www.DowntownDover.com for documents relating to the Critical Improvements Program and the Downtown Dover Strategic Master Plan.



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Woman Owned, 8(a) & HUBZone Certified 

The Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce (CDCC) Staff and Board Members met at Italian restaurant, Jerry Longo's Meatballs and Martinis inside Bally's Dover Casino Resort on June 13 for their annual Board Retreat. The day kicked off with a fun icebreaker to create comfortability followed by a thought-provoking presentation from Jennifer Cohan, CEO of Leadership Delaware Inc. She got our brains thinking about our personal work styles in relation to outside factors and within a team. Fueled by a beautiful and nourishing breakfast by Bally's team, everyone was ready for the meeting ahead.

The 2023 Board Retreat accomplished finalizing the 2022-2023 fiscal year of the Chamber, reviewing the Strategic Plan for the next two years, as well as passing the next year's budget. The Board heard from the CDCC staff about the accomplishments and challenges they've faced throughout the year, as well as possible solutions. After a break with a delicious lunch courtesy of the accommodating hosts at Jerry Longo's, the group reconvened to proceed with the day's agenda. Dr.

Dina Vendetti, CDCC President, delivered the budget line items for everyone to analyze, inquire, and give their judgment – to which they ultimately approved.

The day wrapped up with everyone separating into breakout groups to discuss and answer relevant CDCC questions, and then share with the rest of the room. Groups brainstormed problems, ideas, and solutions for questions pertaining to the promising future of the Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce.

The CDCC Staff members would like to thank all its Board Members in attendance and in thought for taking the time out of their very busy schedules to help better the future of the CDCC. A special thank you goes to Board Chairman, Brian Stetina of Faw Casson, for his years of service to the CDCC. The CDCC Welcomes newest Board Chairman, Dana Wattay to this position and looks forward to his further service to the CDCC.

Check out www.cdcc.net for more information on the CDCC's 2023 Board of Directors. Thank you to

Nick Polcino, Nancy McCoy, and the Jerry Longo's team for making us feel so welcome! Thank you again everyone for a fruitful and energizing meeting of the minds, we look forward to working with you this year!



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Hunt Military Communities: A Place for Civilians and Military to Call Home!

The Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce (CDCC) appreciates all opportunities to support our military servicemembers at the Dover Air Force Base (DAFB). Therefore, the CDCC was thrilled to meet with Victoria Cains, Community Manger, to learn more about a member business that is doing just that – Hunt Military Communities, also known at Eagle Heights, across from the DAFB main entrance in Dover. This company specializes in housing solutions for military families across the country, with 42 locations. The CDCC was pleased to learn that Dover's Eagle Heights offerings are now open to civilians.

Cains had been working at Hunt Military Communities for 7 months and fully understands the needs of military families, as her husband was Active Duty. Her favorite aspect of her position at Hunt/Eagle Heights is being a friendly face for families who need housing because they have been uprooted, relocated, or deployed. She loves the ease she can provide to new residents by the community not requiring three times your income, not having crazy deposits, same day move in procedures, and top-notch gated DAFB

security. Security is a top priority for many and Hunt Military is the only community in Delaware who can offer the "ultimate gated community" guarded by military personnel. =

Cains was happy to meet with the CDCC for an interview and tour of their model home. Although you do not have to be enlisted in the military to live in this community, there are still standards in place such as credit reports, criminal background checks, and income criteria that need to be met.

In addition to security and ease of access to housing, there are countless benefits and amenities to living at Eagles Heights.

Hunt offers single family homes, ranging from 2-5 bedrooms, each with at least a 1-car garage, 1 and 2-levels options, pool access, 16 playgrounds, tennis and basketball courts, a soccer field, community center, fitness center, and backyard space. The community currently holds a total of 982 homes. Cains describes this community to be "more like a home than a rental." If those amenities were not enough, members of the community have 24/7 on-call maintenance at their service! Their clubhouse can be



rented for events by residents and events are routinely held for the community. Cains recalls a fond memory of seeing kids find 1,000 easter eggs in 12 minutes at their March Egg Hunt! She really values and cherishes the relationships she has made with residents with her time at Eagle Heights.

Eagle Heights "fills the need for housing because there is not enough housing as there is, and people are charged outrageous amounts of rent just because they can. I do believe that we charge very little for how much we have to offer, not to mention our homes are beautiful" Cains shared. She went on to highlight the minimal commute for service members, being that the community is directly across from the DAFB main entrance – this relieves a lot of stress and saves time

and money for family. "Cutting their commute is also great for safety."

The future of Hunt Military Communities will feature building a new school, but their overall goal will not change. "Our goal is to continue to serve the community and provide homes where people make memories. We have a staff that truly cares about its residents and are always willing to go above and beyond to make sure that they are cared for," shared Cains. She said their Hunt Heart program helps spouses of deployed members, whether cutting their grass or putting a bike together or hanging Christmas lights. That is care you certainly do not find everywhere.

Victoria Cains and her team at Hunt Military Communities at Eagle Heights in Dover are surely making waves in the housing solution for military personnel, but also now for civilians. She is excited for the busy season ahead after a recent wildly successful open house

event. For more information or to schedule a tour at Eagle Heights communities in Dover, please visit www.doverfamilyhousing.com or call (302) 678-3603. Please join us in supporting this member business as they continue to support Central Delaware!



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bombshell hair studio Inc.
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Bright Future Pediatrics
Bright Side Roofing
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Lennar	Office Pride Commercial Cleaning Services	SCORE Delaware	Tidewater Utilities, Inc.
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Liberty Tax Service	PAM Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Dover	September Tenth Films	Tomeka's Homestyle Eatery
Lighthouse Construction, Inc.	Senator W. Charles Paradee	Service Source	Tommy's Express
Lisa Pearson, Realtor – Diamond State Realty	PARASEC – PARACORP Inc.	SERVPRO of Dover/Middletown	Top Spin Productions DJ and Photobooth Services
Little Caesars	Parkview RV Center	Shay's Seafood & Soul	Torbert Funeral Chapel
Liza Orlando, Realtor – Keller Williams Realty	Pathways to Success, Inc.	Shay's Supreme Vending	Towles Electric Inc.
LOCALiQ Delaware	Patriot Auto & Truck Repair Inc	Sherry T. Wilkins	Tracey Ingram, Money Transformation Coach
Loft Realty	Patterson Schwartz	Shore United Bank – Camden	Trader Funeral Home, Inc.
LongHorn Steakhouse	Paul Edwards Carpet	Shore United Bank – Dover	Transamerica Agency Network
Lawrence A. Louie, DMD	Payroll Management Assistance	Shortcutz Lawn & Landscape Co	Tre Sorelle Dolce Ice Cream & Mini Golf
Luff & Associates, PA	PC ChristianRadio	Representative Bryan W. Shupe	True Access Capital
Luther Towers of Dover	People Ready	ShureLine Electrical	Two Men And A Truck
Representative Sean M. Lynn	People's Place	Silver Lining Home Healthcare	Uglobal
M&D Plumbing and Drain Cleaning Spec. Inc.	Pepsi Bottling Ventures of Delmarva	Simon Eye	Ultrasound Express, LLC
M&T Bank – Dover Main	Pierce Fence Company, Inc.	Skocik's Discoveries and Collectables	Union Baptist Church, Inc
Magnum Electronics, Inc.	Pike Creek Mortgage Services, Inc.	Skyline Catering LLC	UNITED Church
Mail Movers	Pinnacle Rehabilitation & Health Center	Sleep Inn and Suites	United Healthcare
Eagle Hospitality Group, LLC – MainStay Suites	Pizzadili's Deli and Catering/Winery	Small Business Development Center	United Way of Delaware
Maple Dale Country Club	PJVideoFilm.com	Smith, Cohen & Rosenberg LLC	University of Delaware
Mark Group Companies LLC	PNC Bank	Town of Smyrna	USO Delaware
Maxed Out Vape	Pole Building Supplies	Smyrna Chiropractic LLC	uTransform360
MBI	POLYTECH Adult Education	Smyrna Nutrition	Representative Jesse R. Vanderwende
McDonald's	POLYTECH School District	Smyrna Opera House	MGeneral Frank Vavala
McGinnis Commercial Real Estate Co.	Service Energy / Poore's Propane	Smyrna Pediatric Dentistry	Vendetti
McKinney's Towing & Road Service	Porter's Sand & Gravel, Inc.	Smyrna School District	Law Office of Karen Y. Vicks, LLC
Meals On Wheels Delaware	Positive Outcomes Charter School	Snow's Painting Service, LLC	Vincenzo's Pizzeria & Gelato
Meridian Bank Mortgage Center	Representative Charles S. Postles, Jr.	Southern Delaware Explorer Magazine	Visions of Hope HM, Inc.
Merle Norman Cosmetics Studio	PR Delaware LLC	Sparkle Pools Inc. – Dover	W.D. Pressley, Inc.
Merrill Lynch Wealth Management – Connell & Associates	Pratt Insurance, Inc.	Special Touch Card Creations	Wagamon Technology Group, LLC.
Michelle Rawley, Realtor – Bryan Realty Group	Precision Garage Door of Delaware	Spence's Bazaar & Flea Market, Inc.	Walmart DC 7034
Mid Atlantic Scientific Service Inc	Pressley Ridge	Representative Jeffrey N. Spiegelman	Waste Industries
Middletown Area Chamber of Commerce	Price Plumbing LLC	Splash! Designworks	Wattay Accounting – Smyrna
Mike & Mel's Family Restaurant	Primary Residential Mortgage, Inc.	St. Andrew's LC Great Hall and Gathering Space	WBOC & FOX21
Dan Mikkelsen	Primerica – Erlene George	Staples Copy & Print	Wealth Management Group, LLC
Chamber of Commerce for Greater Milford, Inc.	Proforma Dynamic Resources	State Farm Insurance – Bennett Ins. Agency Inc.	Weiner Benefits Group
Milford Post 3, American Legion, Inc.	Progressive Software Computing Inc – PSCI	State Janitorial Supply Co.	Steve Welde
Milford Wellness Village	Provident State Bank	State Street Assisted Living	Wesley United Methodist Church
Military Officers Association of America – Dover Chapter	PS Surety Consulting, LLC	Stephen R. Harrell Auctioneer, LLC	Westminster Village
Miller Environmental Group Inc	Pugh's Service	Stick It! Gymnastics	Westover Companies – Lake Club Apts
Miller Mortgage Group at AnnieMac Home Mortgage	Purposefully Transforming Lives	Stone Nation, Inc.	Westside Car Wash/Clean Car, Inc
Miller's Roofing & Coatings, LLC	Quality Builders Inc.	Suds and Company	Westside Family Healthcare
Mindful Midwifery	Queen's Beauty Bar	SUMURI LLC	William V. Sipple & Son, Inc.
Mishoe	R & R Commercial Realty, Inc	Sunnyfield Contractors, Inc.	Williams Insurance Agency Inc.
Mispillion River Brewing	Read Aloud Delaware	SunWise Family Dermatology & Surgery	Willis Chevrolet, Inc.
Mission BBQ	Ready 4 Work	Super Cichlids	Willow Construction
Mitten & Winters, CPA	Red Wing Shoes	TAG Events	Wilmington University
MNTN Construction	Red-E-Bins Sussex LLC	Taylor & Messick, Inc.	Senator David L. Wilson
Modern Maturity Center, Inc.	Regulatory Insurance Services, Inc.	TD Bank – Limestone	Winter Wonderfest – Festival of Cheer
Mohawk Electrical Systems, Inc.	Rely Tool Supply, LLC	Teal Construction, Inc.	Woody's on Wheels
Moore Seal, Inc.	Remax Horizons	Technical Broadcast Solutions, Inc.	World Trade Center Delaware
Morning Star Publications / The Business Report	Rene' Delyn Hair Designs	Techno Goober	WSFS Bank – Camden Branch
Representative W. Shannon Morris	Renewal by Andersen	Telepathy Networks, LLC	Xpress Computer Systems
Motto Mortgage Prosperity	Residence Inn by Marriott, Dover	Texas Roadhouse	Xtra Clean Janitorial Services LLC
Mountain Consulting Inc.	Restaurant 55 / DDEGE Investments, LLC	The Art Society at Loblolly Acres	Representative Lyndon D. Yearick
Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church – Dover	Richard Y. Johnson & Son, Inc.	The Brick-Wood Fired Eats	Yencer Builders, Inc.
My Salon Suite	Roberts Insurance, Inc.	The Catering Company	YMCA Dover
	Roma Italian Restaurant	The Center at Eden Hill	Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park at Delaware Beaches
	Ronald McDonald House of Delaware	The Creative Side of Things	Zeabe
	Rooah! LLC	The Eduruke Group	
	Royal Home Care Services LLC		
	RPJ Waste Services, Inc.		



Awards for Excellence

AWARDS

Continued from Page 1

graduated from the Diamond Program of the Chamber. Leadership Central Delaware is a unique and immersive 10-month program that challenges the classmates' team building, decision-making, and goal setting skills, all while learning and touring various industries in Kent County. This evening marked a bittersweet moment as this year's program ended for our graduates; however, we know that we will see them again as they are so eager to stay involved and impact their community for the better. Congrats to the LCD Class of 2023!

We hope the delivery of our 2022-2023 State of the Chamber Address provided some clarity and insight

into what the CDCC accomplished this past year and what our focus is for the future. The CDCC does so much within a year that it can be hard to keep track of, but not for you; you've joined us for every step of the way and we couldn't be more grateful. Thank you for allowing us to be a small part of your business journey here in Central Delaware.

From sponsors, volunteers, business partners, to ambassadors, the CDCC could not have completed a busy year without each and everyone's help. The CDCC staff works hard to orchestrate events, provide programs, and be present in the community and it is so gratifying to see our members bring our events, especially this one, to life. This celebration was for YOU – our members, the community! This was

to express our gratitude to all your hard work and dedication to us, the CDCC and the community. We were elated to roll out the red carpet, call the "paparazzi," and enjoy a glamorous evening with all of you!

The CDCC would like to give a special thank you to our Signature Patron Sponsor, Merrill Lynch – Connell, Carey, & Associates for their generous support in making this year's Awards for Excellence Celebration a success! Thank you to Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield of Delaware and JLI for their support as well. A special thank you also to Advantech, Allen Insurance Group, Burns & Ellis Realtors, Delaware State News, Del-One Federal Credit Union, Dover Pools, Excel Business Systems, Faw Casson, Keystone Funding, and Shore Unit-

ed Bank! Thank you to the event's Platinum Sponsors from Century Engineering, Chesapeake Utilities, Dover Federal Credit Union, Harrington Raceway & Casino, Kraft Heinz, L&W Insurance, PAM Rehabilitation Hospital of Dover, and R&R Commercial Realty. The CDCC and Central Delaware community thank all these great local business for their continued support and generosity!

ing engaged with the CDCC for another great year. Thank you for supporting your local community and Chamber throughout the year. Every ending welcomes a new beginning and the CDCC is so excited to begin a new fiscal year with our cherished community – we couldn't do it without YOU!

Congratulations to all 9 nominees!

Please join the CDCC in congratulating our 2023 Awards for Excellence Celebration winners:

- Young Professional of the Year – Lauren Webb, Dedicated to Women OB/GYN
- Small Business of the Year – Jessica Moyer, The Ice House Wellness & Community
- Large Employer of the Year – Polytech Adult Education, Amelia Hodges, Jermyer McEntire
- Partnership of the Year – Bally's Dover Casino Resort, Nick Polcino
- Volunteer of the Year – Sand Hoffman, Chesapeake Utilities
- Board Member of the Year – Scott Connell, Merrill Lynch Connell & Associates
- Ambassador of the Year – Esther Rich, Special Touch Card Creations
- Economic Development Achievement Award – Downtown Dover Partnership, Diane Laird, Tina Bradbury
- LCD Best in Class – Class of 2022



Thank you to everyone in attendance at the Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce's 2023 Awards for Excellence Celebration at the beautiful Bally's Dover Casino Resort – Rollins Center. Thank you to everyone for remain



Logan Anderson Shares LCD Community Impact Project



Paparazzi snap fabulous photos of attendees.



Joe Baione and his Trio



Tetra Shockley Shares LCD Community Impact Project



Awards for Excellence



Board Member of the Year
- Scott Connell



Best in Class - Class of 2022



Past Board Member of the Year
- Rick Monhk



Volunteer of the Year
- Sand Hoffman



Recognition for retiring Judy Diogo by
Mayor Christiansen



Economic Development Achievement
Award - Downtown Dover Partnership



Ambassador of the Year
- Esther Rich



Large Employer of the Year
- Polytech Adult Education



Young Professional of the Year
- Lauren Webb



Outstanding Partnership of the Year
- Ballys Dover Casino Resort



CDCC Board of Directors





Enjoying the Fruits of Our Labor Together!

Members, potential members, and friends of the CDCC gathered for our monthly Sunset Business Mixer on the evening of Wednesday, June 21, from 5-7 p.m. Despite the wet, rainy, and dreary conditions outdoors, our guests brought the sunshine inside as they stayed dry in the spacious tasting room of Harvest Ridge Winery in Marydel. They enjoyed a few hours of valuable networking, raffles, special door prizes, food by Harvest Ridge, and of course delicious, local, artisan wine. It was certainly a "grape" success with everyone's presence!

Harvest Ridge Winery (HRW) is one of Central Delaware's gems. Sitting close to the border of neighboring state, Maryland, HRW has been growing, harvesting, and distributing quality wine since Chuck Nunan, founder, returned home inspired by a trip to a Charleston, S.C., winery. In 2005, Chuck and his wife decided to purchase land for a family farm that now is Harvey Ridge Winery – the original name of the farmland. The first vines were planted in 2011 and Delaware's fourth winery officially opened to the public on Nov. 1, 2013.

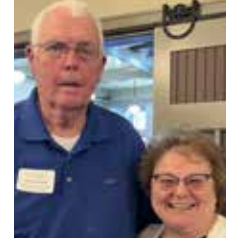
Congratulations to the CDCC's newest Member of the Month, the one and only, Barbara Steele of the People's Platform! Thank you for be-

ing a devoted member of the CDCC.

We hope everyone in attendance had a wonderful evening with us at Harvest Ridge Winery. We hope you met someone new, caught up with someone familiar, and enjoyed delicious food and wine courtesy of the great staff at Harvest Ridge!

The CDCC was happy to connect with the community at this local staple – "to get away from it all!" The CDCC would like to thank the Harvest Ridge Winery team for hosting June's Sunset Business Mixer and allowing our community to convene at their lovely location. For more information about Harvest Ridge Winery feel free to visit www.harvestridgewinery.com or call their Marydel location at 302-343-9437.

For more information on upcoming CDCC Sunset Business Mixers (held on the last Wednesday of the month) please visit www.cdcc.net or call 302-734-7513. Remember, they are free for all member businesses and their employees. If you are not currently a CDCC member but are interested in attending a future event, call the office today! You may attend up to 2 mixers before becoming a member. We hope to see you at the next Mixer, held on July 26, at the Residence Inn by Marriot in Dover.



Member News

La Baguette Bakery & Catering's 2nd Location Coming Soon!

La Baguette Bakery & Catering's 2nd Location Coming Soon!

In nous enchante! In other words, "it delights us," the CDCC to bring joyous news that one of Central Delaware's local sweet and savory favorites is expanding within the state with a new sister location. That's right – Downtown Dover's La Baguette Bakery & Catering will be branching downstate for their second location in The Villages of Five Points in Lewes, Del. Don't worry Central Delaware, La Baguette Dover will not be changing a crumb! "Everything is going to stay the same, fear not," reassures owner Anita Wheeler-Bezy.

"We've just outgrown our kitchen," started Wheeler-Bezy. The plan for this Lewes location will initially entail a focus on wholesale bread products with their partners like Touch of Italy and Bally's Dover Casino Resort. Travel will be needed back and forth between the locations. The Lewes location will have an oven able to bake 600 loaves of bread in one hour. With society's tremendous workforce problem, the CDCC was happy to hear that the La Baguette team has not had trouble hiring additional employees to fulfill the mission and fill happy stomachs. This is partly due to their great relationship with local higher education culinary students in the area, such as Delaware Technical Community College. Wheeler-Bezy describes it as "a match made in heaven."

Although selections in Lewes will be limited at first, the bakery is set to open for retail sales around November 1st. At the time of publication of this article, the site is currently undergoing inspections and contracting. Slower Lower Delawareans will have to wait until the fall of 2023 to get their hands on their bestselling lemon meringue tart, pistachio and chocolate croissants and more. The focus of "quality over quantity" will not be compromised.

"The people who drive from Rehoboth or Lewes to Dover for La Baguette won't need to do that anymore, so we are excited for the customers. I am also excited about the discovery of new customers who haven't heard of us," said Wheeler-Bezy.

It may seem like this was a goal of Chef Ludovic & Anita Wheeler-Bezy all along, but this comes as a surprise to the couple as well!

"To be perfectly honestly, we did not see this coming, but we're very grateful to be given the opportunity to serve the community in a greater manner which shows the love and support we get from Delaware we are so grateful for." When asked how La Baguette is going to transfer the same energy to the Lewes location she answered, "like Chef says, there's only 24 hours in a day, you can only work so much. We just must take a step back and train people, and it will run fabulously ... This is all brand new for us and we're optimistic. People looking for quality pastries and bread will find us, we're all about the quality and I think people know that," continued Wheeler-Bezy. "We're just really grateful for our client base and their support."

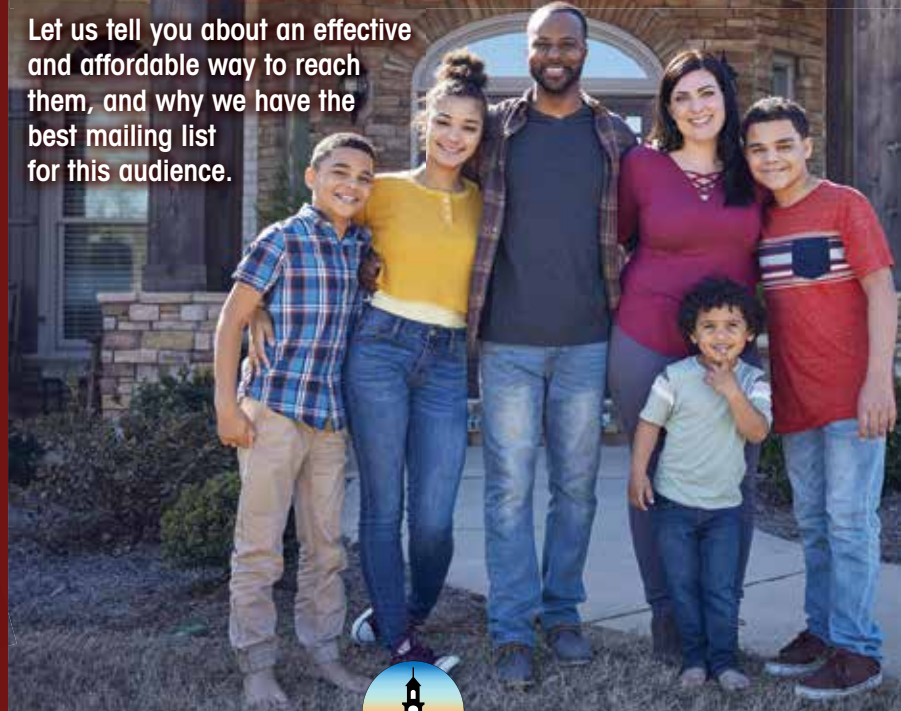
So, what's the recipe for long-term success one might ask? "You can't get burnt out, so we try to take a break often, we are constantly striving to improve." Anita's advice for other businesses priming themselves for expansion is to "have all your ducks in a row, and if the community loves you, you will have the opportunity to expand. We feel the love in the community. That's what keeps us going. We wouldn't want a second location if we didn't feel that love...its takes energy to do this." It must be noted that Wheeler-Bezy is not a coffee drinker and is fueled by her inner drive and her faith in God, "God keeps me going."

The CDCC is thrilled to be a small part of La Baguette Bakery and Catering's journey and wish them nothing but continued success in their new Villages at Five Points location in Lewes (behind the Food Lion, next to Arena's, with plenty of parking). Please join us in congratulating La Baguette Bakery & Catering on their new expansion!



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Ribbon Cuttings

CDCC joins Smyrna Chiropractic LLC for a Ribbon Cutting!

The Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce (CDCC) hosted a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Smyrna Chiropractic, LLC, (SC) on Tuesday, June 6. Chamber members and friends joined the Smyrna Chiropractic, LLC, team to celebrate their Grand Opening at 1000 Smyrna Clayton Blvd., Suite 3 in Smyrna, Del.!

Chiropractic practice is an alternative form of medicine. Founded in the late 1800s, this practice is concerned with the treatment and prevention of mechanical disorders of the musculoskeletal system, especially the spine. This form of medical care is often paired with other therapies like muscle stimulation, exercises, cupping, muscle scrapping and tapping, which Smyrna Chiropractic also offers.

The mission of Smyrna Chiropractic, LLC, is to “elevate our community’s overall health and wellness and enhance their quality of life through Chiropractic care. We believe we can change the Smyrna community for the better

while promoting a healthy way of life through Chiropractic care and movement,” shared Dr. Matthew DeFroda. The team at SC believes in honest and integrity as it relates to the overall wellness of the community. They believe all people deserve to be healthy and thrive in their own lives, and their main goal is to provide the people of the community with the tools to do just that.

Smyrna Chiropractic, LLC, provides personalized chiropractic treatment for each of their patients. They offer care to anyone and everyone, from newborn babies to patients in their 90’s. Each patient receives a custom treatment plan based on his or her symptoms and areas of concern. Patients can be sure they are receiving individualized and thorough treatment when visiting this new practice.

Dr. Matthew DeFroda has been a Chiropractor for seven years, primarily working upstate in Newark. “We moved to Clayton two years ago from Middletown and knew the town needed a local

Chiropractor who loves the town he lives in. That led to creating Smyrna Chiropractic LLC,” Dr. DeFroda shared.

“My wife and I had lived in Delaware (Pike Creek and New Castle respectively) our whole lives. We knew we wanted to live in a quiet small-town area, something that Middletown was getting away from, to raise our children. When we found Clayton and visited the Clayton/Smyrna area we fell in love with the charm of the old town. Part of living in a town is being an active member of that community. That led me to create Smyrna Chiropractic, a way to truly give back to the community by restoring its residents’ full potential,” continued Dr. DeFroda. This Ribbon Cutting ceremony not only celebrates their Grand Opening, but also this past year of planning and creating the practice.

Smyrna Chiropractic, LLC, is passionate about being a part of the community. Since opening the doors on May 9, the company has become involved in PTA events for Providence Creek



Academy and plans on participating in more sponsored events. They also plan to participate in Smyrna Night and Railroad Day – two large community events in Smyrna. Future plans include taking an active role in making the community a better place through other events and volunteering opportunities.

For further information about Smyrna Chiropractic, LLC, please contact (302) 202-9926 or visit www.smyrna-chiropractic.com. Please join the Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce in congratulating Dr. DeFroda and the Smyrna Chiropractic team on their Grand Opening!

CDCC joins PACE Your LIFE for a Ribbon Cutting!

The Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce (CDCC) hosted a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for PACE Your LIFE on Wednesday, June 21. Chamber members and friends joined the PACE Your LIFE team to celebrate their 1-year anniversary at 21 W. Clarke Ave, Suite 1010, in Milford!

PACE Your LIFE is a program of all-inclusive care for the elderly that was approved by CMS (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid) in May 2022. PACE Your LIFE’s mission is to improve the quality of life for the local 55 and older community by offering an alternative model of care that is person-centered with the goal of allowing their participants to remain living & thriving in the community for as long as possible. They work hard to reduce

hospitalizations and nursing home placements by offering comprehensive home and community-based, medical, and social care.

PACE Your LIFE Milford utilizes an all-inclusive health plan combined with medical and social services. They have a Center in the Milford Wellness Village in the heart of Milford where they provide services including but not limited to physical, occupational & speech therapy, personal care, primary medical care, emergency care, socialization, meals, transportation, medication management and 24/7 on-call service. Care can be provided at their Center in Milford, in the participant’s home or in the community through their network of contract providers.

PACE programs are national programs that are highly regulated by the State in which the PACE program resides, as well as Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS). Much preparation, time, and work go into opening a PACE program. The organization must go through rigorous reviews and audits prior to receiving an approval. In the past year, PACE Your LIFE Milford has grown their number of participants and staff and has experienced continual growth since opening in May 2022. The team is so thankful for their community partners and referral sources who recognize the need for PACE Your LIFE in Milford, Del.

The CDCC was thrilled to celebrate the anniversary of

PACE Your LIFE with ice cream, food trucks, and a photo booth!

For further information about PACE Your LIFE Milford please contact (302) 865-3565 or visit www.paceyourlifemwv.com. Please join the Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce in congratulating the PACE Your LIFE Milford team on their one-year anniversary of serving Central Delaware!



CDCC joins Tomeka’s HomeStyle Eatery for a Ribbon Cutting!



The Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce hosted a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Tomeka’s HomeStyle Eatery on Wednesday, June 14. Chamber members and friends joined owner and founder, Tomeka Crawford, to celebrate the 1-year anniversary of her restaurant, Tomeka’s HomeStyle Eatery at 1466 E. Lebanon Road in Dover.

Tomeka’s is a restaurant that serves traditional soul food with a modern twist. This casual eatery serves soul food favorites such

as fried and baked chicken, fried fish, eggplant, and of course delicious sides like mac and cheese, green beans, and yams. Tomeka’s HomeStyle Eatery also offers fresh salads and seafood options. Don’t forget to try the incredible shrimp and crab dip! Customers can enjoy fresh sweet tea and Pepsi products as they dine-in or carry-out their scrumptious homemade meals. Tomeka ensures to season all her dishes with the perfect amount of love for her guests to enjoy.

Allow Tomeka to cater your next event and leave your guests with an unforgettable experience. Let Tomeka’s HomeStyle Eatery leave them with a true taste of authentic home cooking, original recipes, and lots of love in every bite. The restaurant’s gorgeous atmosphere will make the perfect spot for your next meal or meeting!

Since cooking with her mother at the age of 10, Tomeka has

Ribbon Cuttings

been sharing her years of cooking experience with the Central Delaware community, now in her own brick and mortar location!

Tomeka has served her delicious cuisine to her local community every week at the Capital City Farmer's Market on Loockerman Steet in Downtown Dover since 2018. She has been invited and

sold out many community events with the Dover Air Force Base and various pop-up shops around town. It has been her childhood dream to own her own restaurant here in Dover, Delaware, and today it is finally a reality!

Tomeka is grateful for the connections she's made through her membership with the Central Delaware Cham-

ber of Commerce that have helped her dream to come to fruition. She is excited to further serve her community not only with her delightful food and attitude, but by collaborating with other local businesses as well.

To learn more about Tomeka of Tomeka's HomeStyle Eatery, feel free to stop in the restaurant at 1466 E.

Lebanon Road in Dover, Delaware. You can also visit the restaurant's Facebook page for daily specials, or call (302) 538-5160. Please join the Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce in congratulating Tomeka Crawford and the Tomeka's HomeStyle Eatery team on their 1-year Anniversary!

New Member Spotlights

Introducing, uTransform360!

"Make peace, find your purpose, and live your passion!" is the motto for this new member business who caters to middle to upper-management women, who are established in their careers,



and are seeking to break free from the mundane and unfulfilling routine of their day-to-day lives. UTransform360 is a life-changing, transformational retreat business that offers professional women a unique opportunity to unlock their full potential and discover their purpose! This woman-owned and operated business seeks to help other women overcome a feeling and stage in life that many people are familiar with but may not know how to change.

Co-founded by Olga Kaminer and Dianne Cunningham, uTransform360's signature retreat, Retreat to Rebirth, is designed to help women who feel stuck or frustrated with their current situations. uTransform360 aims to help women reconnect with their inner selves and unleash their true potential, guiding them to a life of joy, purpose, and abundance. With a focus on personal development and spiritual empowerment, uTransform360 provides a safe and supportive space for women to grow, learn, and transform. Utransform360 offers an experience for women that is not usually available in their day-to-day lives. Retreat by dictionary definition is: "an act or process of withdrawing especially from what is difficult, dangerous, or disagreeable," also defined as "a period of group withdrawal for prayer, meditation, study, or instruction under a direction." Kaminer and Cunningham are combining both definitions in their offerings of retreats for women through their company uTransform360.

In addition to their life-changing retreats, uTransform360 also offers publishing services with a wide range of publishing packages for aspiring

authors. Whether it's a memoir, a self-help book, or a novel, their publishing services help authors bring their ideas to life and share their messages with the world. The team at uTransform360 provides personalized guidance and support throughout the entire publishing process, from editing and formatting to cover design and distribution.

The opportunities for growth don't stop there. UTransform360 allows women to collaborate by sharing their knowledge and expertise with others through their virtual speaking platform. The platform provides a range of tools and resources to help women prepare for their speaking engagements and reach a wider audience. Whether it's a virtual conference, a webinar, or a podcast, uTransform360's virtual speaking platform empowers women to share their voices and make a positive impact in the world.


Meet the co-founders! Dianne Cunningham is an Amazon #1 Best Selling Author with a passion for helping others achieve their dreams. Dianne moved to Delaware over a year ago from Brooklyn, N.Y., and Trinidad, West Indies, prior to that. She worked for the New City Transit Authority for 29 years, rising to the position of superintendent. After retiring at the age of 56, Dianne pursued her entrepreneurial dreams by purchasing a travel agency franchise, where she helps people travel on a budget. Dianne is also a certified coach who enjoys helping women fulfill their dreams and live their perfect dream life now. Her inspiring journey of overcoming challenges and pursuing her passions is a testament to the power of perseverance and determination.

Olga Kaminer is a speaker, coach and Amazon #1 Best Selling Author. Originally from St. Petersburg, Russia, Olga's desire to make a big impact on the world led her to earn a Ph.D. in business and become a professor. However, she soon realized that teaching wasn't enough, and she wanted to help others unlock their full potential and find

their purpose. With her programs and workshops, Olga aims to equip women with the necessary tools for personal growth, spiritual wellness, and entrepreneurship. Olga is based in Toronto, where she now lives with her husband and three kids and is passionate about helping women become self-sufficient and full of joy by unlocking their true potential and living a life of passion and purpose.

For more information about uTransform360 and their life-changing women's retreats, please email support@uTransform360.com, or call (917) 674-4235. Please join us in welcoming Dianne and Olga of uTransform360 into membership!






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New Member Spotlights

Introducing, Clyde W. Floyd!



“Just because you have fallen doesn’t mean that you must stay there,” wise and inspiring words from a Central Delaware man by the name of Clyde W. Floyd. The CDCC is thrilled to be able to share a glimpse into a one man’s changed life for the better!

Dr. Clyde William Floyd has a beautiful story to tell about his life and the steps that have led him to where he is today, as a father, husband, welder, counselor, motivational speaker, and soon-to-be published author. He shares his deeply personal and profound history of rediscovering hope through his faith in God, his marriage, and life with the hope of inspiring others to do the same.

Floyd was raised at Emmanuel Pentecostal Church of God under the leadership of his pastor and mentor,

the late Bishop Joseph P. Cooper Sr. He accepted Jesus Christ his personal Savior as a young teen and is currently still an active member. As a young man, he strayed away from God; however, the Lord spared his life, and he rededicated his life to Christ in November 1991. Floyd was ordained as a deacon in August 2001 and is the Sunday School Superintendent and teaches the Adult Sunday School class. In June 2014, he was called into the ministry.

This led Floyd to attend the Christian World College of Theology where he pursued dual degrees: a master’s degree in ministry (theology), graduating Summa Cum Laude in 2021, and the Newburgh Theological Seminary with a Doctorate of Philosophy in Christian counseling with a specialization in addiction counseling in 2022. In the midst of these great achievements, in March of 2020, at the height of the global COVID-19 pandemic, Floyd retired from Baltimore Air Coil as a welder after 25 years of service at the company. Today, his biggest desire is that “souls be saved, set free, and delivered by the power of God,” he shared.

Floyd has been married to his wife, Wanda, for 37 years and they have one son and two beautiful grandchildren. He has lived a story to tell and is excited to have the power of God on his side to help other people. He shared some of the inspiration behind his upcoming

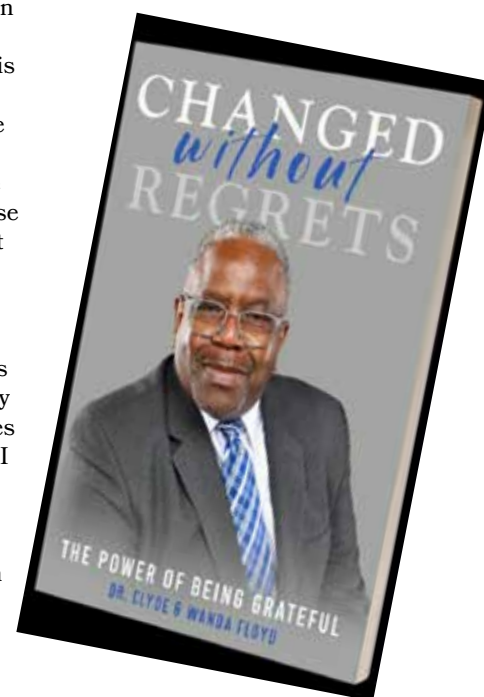
published release, coming to readers the first week of July 2023.

“My book is based on my life after high school. I was caught up in the drug and alcohol scene and the ups and downs of married life. I was raised in the church and strayed away, but God restored me back to Him. Now, I am able to use my (and our) life to help someone in need. Just because you have fallen doesn’t mean that you must stay there. God is there to lift you up, change you, and make you a better person. Your marriage doesn’t have to end up in divorce because you have done drugs; it is not the end of the world for there is hope. An addiction is curable with the help of God. There are so many people that think they are hopeless, that no one cares, and that they have nowhere to go, but all of that can change because there is hope. How do I know? I was at the point of no return, but somebody prayed for me and that changed my life,” shared Floyd.

The CDCC is happy to have Clyde as a member because of his great tenacity and power to overcome life’s challenges resulting in his desire to help others. “I believe that the CDCC can help me to reach people that need a life-changing experience and are looking for a fresh start. I heard about the CDCC through a mutual friend. I joined because they are involved with the community and help people get ahead. You are able

to meet many people from different careers and lifestyles. You have the opportunity to interact with entrepreneurs that can help you achieve your goals,” concluded Floyd.

The CDCC is excited about Dr. Clyde W. Floyd’s impending book release and to see where life takes him next. For more information about Dr. Clyde W. Floyd and his upcoming book release, please call (302) 233-1518. Please join us in welcoming Dr. Clyde W. Floyd into membership!



Introducing BES Business Solutions, LLC!

The Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce is excited to introduce a new member with like-minded goals for the Central Delaware business community – BES Business Solutions, LLC! BES Business Solutions is a Delaware consulting service “designed to help companies, especially small businesses, develop and grow from conception to birth.” The BES team takes a comprehensive consulting approach to help identify business gaps and opportunities. Together, they formulate a plan, timelines, and schedules to ensure other business’s success. Also, BES provides notary services, office support, official writing for business & networking, business expos, and conference events. BES is committed to lightening your business’s daily workload and operations.

BES Business Solutions has experienced a wonderful business journey. In 1998, Brenda Shields founded BES Business Services (currently BES Business Solutions) and The Job Readiness, Entrepreneur Mentoring Institute (un-

der Inner thoughts Inc.). Shields moved to Dover in 2021 and is excited to bring her expertise to the Central Delaware community!

Shields has over 30 years of experience in business, training, teaching, and management and administration. She was an Adjunct Professor at University of the District of Columbia Community College, as well as a licensed substitute teacher for the District of Columbia School System. She was also a member of TESST College Advisory Committee. She participated in several community services as she served as the Executive Director of the Temple of Praise Outreach and food pantry, Leader of Health Ministry and Business Ministry.

In addition, she has developed and designed entrepreneur training program and curriculum, consulted, developed plans & operation assessments for small businesses & entrepreneurs, as well as assisted with the operation and opening of over 20 Businesses. She has also developed Life Skills, Business Development and Administra-

tive Curriculum. In the midst of these accomplishments, Shields has received numerous awards such as: Small Business of the Year from Ward 8 Business Council (twice) in Washington D.C., the community service award from CMI and World Vision Staff, and the 1999 Impact Community Hero Award from Community Impact D.C. She has a B.S. Degree in Graphic Communications, a master’s in education, and is currently completing her master’s in counseling.

For more information about BES Business Solutions, LLC, please visit www.theonebes.com or call (302) 907-2300 to schedule an appointment. Be sure to fill out their online assessment to receive a call back on how BES can help you best, and to get a quote on their services. Please join us in welcoming Brenda Shields and BES Business Solutions, LLC, into membership!



New Member Spotlights

Introducing, It Is Well Healthcare & Medispa, LLC!

It Is Well Healthcare & Medispa, LLC, is here to put you, your health, and your wellness at ease! This new licensed medical practice, which has been in business for a little over a year, is excited to learn, grow, and service the community one patient at a time! It Is Well Healthcare & Medispa accomplishes many different high-quality medical services all under one roof located at 31 & 33 Gooden Avenue in Dover, Del., to have patients feeling and looking their best, inside and out!

The It Is Well Healthcare & Medispa team is led by owner and provider, Amanda D. Boone, FNP-BC. Originally from Pennsylvania but now living in Kent County with her family, Boone continues her healthcare career here in Central Delaware. Since 2002, Amanda began her journey as a medical billing specialist before becoming a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA). She progressed to become a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN), Registered Nurse, prior to becoming a Board-Certified Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP-BC). Amanda graduated with a master's degree in nursing from Wilmington University and began working at a Federally Qualified Health Center in Georgetown, Delaware before transitioning to private practice.

It Is Well Healthcare also provides

the following treatments and medical services: high cholesterol, depression/anxiety, allergies/asthma, diabetes, endocrinology, family planning, headaches, heart disease, high blood pressure, obesity/weight loss treatment, physical exams, preventive health, smoking cessation, substance abuse treatment, DOT Exams, lab services including COVID-19 testing, urinalysis, urine pregnancy tests, and urine drug screens, and nebulizer treatments.

Along the way, Amanda has accomplished several educational goals to expand her knowledge and help to better serve her community: Certifications for treating substance abuse disorders to include the use of Suboxone and Vivitrol, Women's Health training to include Long-Acting Reversible Contraceptive (LARC), National Certification as a Medical Examiner for Federal Motor Carrier Certifications (DOT Exams), Medical Assisted Weight Loss Training, and Non-surgical aesthetic services. All of this training, combined with Amanda's primary care experience, will be incorporated into the It Is Well Healthcare medical practice. Amanda is excited to start this new journey and continuing to serve her community's health care needs.

Amanda works alongside a talented, licensed, qualified, and experienced



team of professionals. Constance (Connie) Crane (DNP, FNP-C, APRN), is a Delaware native who uses her 22 years of RN experience to provide evidence-based healthcare. She has obtained her Doctorate of Nursing Practice from the University of Delaware, worked in emergency departments, and trauma centers. She is absolutely qualified to serve patients in her care at It Is Well Healthcare & Medispa!

Last but certainly not least, Alexis Baily, Licensed Esthetician, brings her previous skills of working in Human Services and a full-service salon and spa to this new private practice team. After ten years of dedication to the salon & struggling with adult cystic acne herself, she decided it was time to combine her passion for helping others & skin therapy to become a Licensed Esthetician. Alexis is a graduate from the Academy of Massage & Bodywork in Bear, DE and obtained her certifications in comprehensive Laser treat-

ments, Microneedling, Dermaplaning, & Chemical Peels from the Institute for Laser Medicine.

It Is Well Healthcare & Medispa can provide botox, derma fillers, intense pulse light treatments, teeth whitening, medical facials, and medical grade skincare products.

For more information about It Is Well Healthcare & Medispa, call 302-678-9355 or visit www.itiswellde.com. Please join us in welcoming Amanda Boone, and her team at It Is Well Healthcare & Medispa into membership!



Introducing, The Art Society at Loblolly Acres!

A new season is dawning for Central Delaware's latest renovated event venue. The history of this venue, located at 3893 Turkey Point Road in Woodside, Del., began humbly with the owner's dream of a quaint Christmas tree farm in 1964. The dream was fulfilled and brought so many jolly memories to families and children who visited for the holidays. Fast forward to 2023, and Loblolly Acres looks a little different under the direction of Cheryl Epps, present owner and "many-hat-wearer."

Introducing a 501(c)3 nonprofit to share the arts in Central Delaware at Loblolly Acres' outdoor Sycamore Stage – The Art Society at Loblolly Acres!

From humble roots to the actualization of its full potential, The Art Society at Loblolly Acres has been revamped and has evolved into a place with a large vision to serve Delaware. It is a place where the dream wedding can be



conceptualized into reality. Concerts of various sizes can finally be brought to Kent County, and community arts, performances, and events can be hosted for Central Delaware to enjoy. One exciting example of this is their "Live in the Pines" Summer Concert Series

this year featuring riveting acts such as Mike Hines & the Look, Love Seed Mama Jump, First State Ballet Theater, and Chesapeake Brass Band!

Epps is ushering in the 4th generation of family leadership and couldn't be more excited to welcome the community and visitors to their new venue. During the COVID shutdown, Epps along with her significant other, Clem, began building the venue of her dreams. Then, she brought in the next generation to help with the transformation of the family farm. From a local, school tour, pumpkin-picking, and Christmas tree destination staple, to now a premier event venue, The Art Society at Loblolly Acres has reinvented itself to be a new kind of staple for the region for years to

come. The Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce (CDCC) is excited to witness their service to the community.

Epps is accompanied by her future daughter-in-law, Angela Zielen, a professional ballet dancer with First State Ballet Theatre (FSBT), who has a dream of bringing performance art to Kent County. In 2022, she created a 501(c)3 non-profit, to The Art Society at Loblolly Acres, to follow her dreams of bringing the arts to Central Delaware. The Art Society at Loblolly Acres is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization with a grand vision to serve and inspire Delaware. Created in 2022 and nestled in the heart of Delaware, The Art Society is Central Delaware's home for nature, community, and the arts. Situated on a 160-acre family-owned farm framed by tall Loblolly pines is a space that welcomes all artists to create, share and transport the community. FSBT has performed twice at Loblolly and is scheduled late this summer.

"In order to better serve our community, we realized we need to be a part of the conversation. We look forward to meeting more people in our community and doing what is best for it!" shared

Epps in answer to her motivation to join the CDCC.

For more information about The Art Society at Loblolly Acres visit www.artsocietyatloblolly.org or call (302) 632-6797. Please join us in welcoming The Art Society at Loblolly Acres into membership!



Member of the Month



NAME: Jessica Cook

TITLE: Events Manager

BUSINESS: Delaware State News / BayToBayNews.com

ADDRESS: 110 Galaxy Drive Dover, DE 19901

PHONE: 302-741-8209

WEBSITE: BayToBayNews.com **EMAIL:** jcook@iniusa.org

Tell us a little about your business/organization:

Delaware State News has served Dover and Downstate Delaware since 1953. More than any other medium, local residents and businesses rely on the State News, print and digital, along with BayToBayNews.com for news, advertising, and information. Community service is the driving force behind our newspaper and web site. Whether it's covering local government, promoting the efforts of a service club, or highlighting a student athlete – everything we do is aimed at reinforcing and strengthening the bonds that connect our citizens to their communities. We are a nonpartisan news organization that informs our citizens about issues that affect their lives, their families and their neighborhoods. Readers rely on us for unbiased coverage of local news, but they also use our products to connect and engage with their fellow

citizens. Robust opinion platforms, comprehensive community calendars and a rich assortment of neighborhood news all combine to celebrate the rich fabric of our communities. Our unique company structure is designed to maintain our independence. We are owned by a nonprofit trust. There are no shareholders, no dividends are paid, and all after-tax profits are reinvested in our journalistic mission.

We rely on a combination of business advertising and subscription revenue to underwrite our print and digital publications, and our journalism.

Tell us about your role in the organization.

My role at Delaware State News is to organize community events including Dover Comic Con, Stars of Delaware and more.

Tell us something that makes your organization unique.

Something that makes the State News unique is the focus on community—giving voice to people's opinions, covering local sports and news, and presenting community building opportunities like Dover Comic Con.

What do you see for the future of your organization?

Our print edition of the State News continues to be strong, but we are also seeing tremendous growth with our e-newspaper and our website BayToBayNews.com. Our digital assets offer our readers unmatched coverage of local news. We are offering more photos and videos than ever before, plus we just launched an online events calendar where anyone can post their events for free. Unlimited digital subscriptions for both the e-newspaper and BayToBayNews.com are only \$8.99 a month. It's easy to sign

up online at BayToBayNews.com/subscribe-today.

How has the Chamber helped your business/organization grow?

We love the networking opportunities the Chamber offers. These have helped us put together some great partnerships with other members. Being able to connect face-to-face with people at an event makes all the difference in the world when it comes to building relationships. Because we offer different ways for businesses to communicate with the community through news stories and advertising, it's important for people to feel comfortable sharing their stories and doing business with us. The Chamber offers us the opportunity to do this.

What is your best advice to other businesses/organizations?

Get involved in your community to give back, as well as build your network and grow your business.

Ambassador's Corner

Chrissy Kyriss

Chrissy Kyriss was born and raised in Chester County, Pa. From 2001-2015, she was a military wife. Chrissy came to Delaware from her previous home in Washington State. After a short time in Delaware, Chrissy and her children (Hannah, Jacob, and Adam) fell in love with the area and decided to settle down and establish roots here. Chrissy has a giving heart and enjoys helping her community with activities such as volunteering at local churches, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts. Chrissy and her children are happy to call Delaware "home."

Chrissy is in her seventh year of

service to Kent County, Del., residents at Central Delaware Habitat for Humanity. She began as an event volunteer, where she quickly embraced the spirit of service and community. Shortly after, she began her employment with CDHFH as a ReStore Associate. A natural leader, Chrissy was quickly promoted to ReStore Director. She is currently the Chief Operating Officer, a position in which she manages a staff of 21 and oversees the daily operations of Central Delaware Habitat for Humanity.

Chrissy has been a CDCC member for a few years and loves the

Chamber's efforts to bring the community together. She adores the CDCC staff and loves the networking benefits. In fact, she was a proud graduate of the CDCC Leadership Central Delaware, Class of 2022.

The CDCC is very supportive of Central Delaware Habitat for Humanity, where Chrissy is currently employed. Chrissy explains that "being a Chamber Ambassador is my way of giving back to the CDCC and thanking them for all their support through the years."

Congratulations - You're a 10!

The Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce of Commerce is excited to introduce a monthly feature for 2022-2023 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 MAY

NAME of COMPANY	# of YEARS	NAME of COMPANY	# of YEARS
Bayhealth Medical Center	47	LongHorn Steakhouse	5
Torbert Funeral Chapel	37	Camden Wyoming Rotary Club	4
Cool Springs Fish Bar & Restaurant	23	Edward Jones – Wearden	4
Dover Place Senior Living	21	Janie Libby	4
Delaware Hospice, Inc.	19	DiBiaso's Cleaning & Restoration Services Inc.	3
SERVPRO of Dover/Middletown	19	Dover Health Care Center	3
TD Bank – Limestone	19	CertaPro Painters of Delaware	2
Go Glass	17	Emmons	2
Dover Behavioral Health System	16	Eye Specialists of Delaware – Milford	2
RPJ Waste Services, Inc.	16	King Cole Farm	2
Simon Eye	14	Atlantic Apothecary, Inc.	1
Black Diamond Financial Solutions, Inc.	13	Brain Love Neurotherapy	1
Weiner Benefits Group	13	Evan W. Smith Funeral Services	1
Cheddar's Scratch Kitchen	10	Hay Where's That, Inc.	1
Dowding Resource Group	8	Jax n Daisy, Inc.	1
Staples Copy & Print	8	Pathways to Success, Inc.	1
Williams Insurance Agency Inc.	8	United Healthcare	1
Coastal Car Wash	7		
Delaware Department of State	7		
Mission BBQ	7		

New Members

BES Business Solutions LLC

Brenda Shields
768 Townsend Blvd
Dover, DE 19901
302-907-2300

Bryan Realty Group

Andrew Bryan
742 S. Governors Ave
Suite A
Dover, DE 19904
302-734-4414

Clyde W. Floyd

Clyde Floyd
612 Oats Lane
Wyoming, DE 19934
302-233-1518

Coney Island Grill

Samuel Mendoza
108 W. Loockerman St.
Dover, DE 19904
302-744-8210

Destined All Stars & Athletics

Shaniqua Myles
560 Otis Drive
Dover, DE 19901
302-760-9464

Helping One More Entrepreneur (H.O.M.E.)

Joseph Richichi
108 Patriot Drive,
Suite A
Middletown, DE 19709
302-274-8060

Integrity Sound Solutions

John Nuzzo
97 Sarah Circle
Camden, DE 19934
302-670-5703

It Is Well Healthcare and Medispa LLC

Jetta Sargent
31 and 33 Gooden Ave
Dover, DE 19904
302-678-9355

Sapphire Business Services, Inc

Carla France
Dover, DE 19904
347-757-1957

The Art Society at Loblolly Acres

Cheryl Epps
3893 Turkey Point Road
Viola, DE 19979
302-632-6797

Thrive

Rosemarie Richichi
108 Patriot Drive,
Suite A
Middletown, DE 19709
302-274-8728

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 **Jay Davis of Smyrna School District for correctly identifying the Leipsic River off Sambo's Tavern. Congratulations, Jay – 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.

Celebrating Life

...And Healing Grieving Hearts

When you have experienced the loss of a loved one, you can trust we will be here to guide you through the process of honoring their life. At Torbert Funeral Chapels, we pride ourselves on serving families in Dover and the surrounding areas with dignity, respect, and compassion. Our staff is experienced in a variety of funeral services and can help you celebrate your loved one no matter your religion, culture, or budget.

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Interested in reaching
active seniors with a busy
lifestyle?

Then you need to
participate in this event!

Friday, July 21, 2023

10 AM - 3 PM • FREE Admission

Noble's Pond Clubhouse, "The Point" • 13 Noble's Pond Crossing, Dover



The day will include: Vendors ★ Door prizes ★ Giveaways
Food Demonstrations ★ Interactive activities
On-site house tours of the Noble's Pond A 55+ Lifestyle Community

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