



# Chamber Connections



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[cdcc.net](http://cdcc.net)

April 2025

## CORNERSTONE MEMBERS



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## The Nine Nominees Excelling in Business! Membership Voting Opens in May

The Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce (CDCC) loves the opportunity to shine a light on our members who are doing extraordinary things every day for their businesses and their community. We take great honor in celebrating those who are going above and beyond in their professional lives to continue to make



Central Delaware a great place to live, work, and play! The CDCC is asking you to join in on a round of applause for the

final nine nominees for this year's Excellence in Business Awards!

"How in the world are the nominees and winners picked for this honor," you ask? While the CDCC facilitates the Awards ceremony and nomination

Continued on Page 6

## Tee Off with TEAM Dover!

If you enjoy golf of any kind and any level, then May is the month for you! The Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce (CDCC) is teeing off the month at the beautiful Jonathan's Landing with their Annual Bluesuiters Golf Tournament on Thursday, May 8th, and then following it up on Wednesday, May 28th with the Mini Masters Mixer (more on that in the next story below).



This Bluesuiters Golf Tournament, planned by the CDCC's Military Affairs Committee, is designed to help maintain and strengthen the positive and supportive

relationship the CDCC is proud to have with the Dover Air Force Base (DAFB). As you have probably realized, the name "Bluesuiters" is a nod to the blue attire of Air Force personnel, honoring their invaluable contribution to the nation and our local community.

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## The Master's Tournament... in Miniature!

While most of us will never play in, let alone win, the famous Master's Tournament, leave it to your CDCC to figure out a way to host an event where you CAN win the Masters – THE Chamber Mini Masters Mixer! This fun-filled Tournament will be held on Wednesday, May 28th at Tre Sorelle Dolce Ice Cream & Mini Golf, beginning at 4 pm, in



conjunction with the May Sunset Business

Mixer.

Since Delaware is about 30 times smaller than Georgia (the home of the original Masters Tournament), it only stands to reason that our version of the famous golf outing would be done in miniature! That's right – THE Chamber Mini Masters is a

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# Dina's Digest



PRESIDENT  
Dina Vendetti

## Preserving the People's House

April is a busy time at Legislative Hall. Newly drafted bills are emerging, negotiations are heating up, conversations are passionate, compromise is pursued, testimonies are heard, decisions are made... all in the name of the people, the residents and business leaders of the First State. At the CDCC, we fondly refer to Legislative Hall by a name that truly describes its foundational purpose: The People's House. This label conveys the idea that for Delawareans, Legislative Hall is a center for democracy: "a government of the people, by the people, for the people" (Thank you, President Lincoln!). Here in Delaware, every person is invited to be part of the conversation. Delaware is a place where voices are heard. That is one of the most fascinating, most endearing things about this State of ours. Delawareans who choose to engage with the state's decision-makers are given a say in how the future is shaped. On our best days, ideas are considered, pros and cons are weighed, and legislation is crafted in a way that truly benefits the people – residents, business leaders, and legislators alike.

We understand that not every day qualifies as a "best" day. On some days, things at the People's House can go a little sideways. It has been our observation that what's happened on those days is someone made what they thought was a wonderful decision... but the people were not included, either because they were forgotten in the process or because they failed to be present. As our senators and representatives meet and deliberate, please understand for sure that Your Chamber is right in the middle of those conversations to represent you, the people. Our job is to advocate on your behalf for legislation that is business friendly and will support the ongoing development and growth of businesses in Central Delaware.

We have worked hard to build strong relationships with our legislators, and we do our very best to practice the art of negotiation and influence their work.

The secret ingredient of our legislative work is the influence that we continuously maintain throughout the process. You see, when legislation is introduced that we find detrimental to our business community, we meet with lawmakers, we suggest changes, and we practice the art of compromise. Changes are taken into consideration and bills are revised. Often, when a bill that we "oppose" passes, the bill that passes is VERY different from the bill that was first introduced. And that, dear members, is because of the work of Your Chamber!

In addition, as laws are voted into place, decisions must be made regarding their implementation. Are they fair to all concerned? Will they adequately answer the pain point that motivated their creation? If not, what kind of additional legislation needs to happen to correct their course?

As you, our members, go about the day-to-day running of your businesses and all that entails, we want to assure you that Your Chamber is working behind the scenes, keeping you informed about legislation that is under consideration, making your voices heard, lobbying on your behalf, and influencing decisions.

For more information about YOUR Chamber's work in legislation or to share your concerns with us, please give us a call at the CDCC office (302)734-7513 or visit our website at [cdcc.net/pillars/legislation](http://cdcc.net/pillars/legislation). We are honored to serve as the voice of the Central Delaware business community and happy to represent the PEOPLE as we collaborate and negotiate in the People's House.

# Calendar of Events

## APRIL

- Thursday, April 3rd**  
Leadership Central Delaware  
8:00am - 5:00pm, Health and Human Services Day
- Thursday, April 3rd**  
Kent County Open for Business  
8:30am - 10:00am, Kent County Levy Court
- Tuesday, April 8th**  
CDCC Board Meeting  
7:30am - 8:30am, Faw Casson
- Wednesday, April 9th**  
Coffee Coaching  
8:00am - 9:00am, via Zoom
- Wednesday, April 9th**  
Marketing Committee Meeting  
2:30pm, via Zoom
- Thursday, April 10th**  
Member Orientation  
8:30am - 10:00am, via Zoom
- Tuesday, April 15th**  
LCD Steering Committee Meeting  
12:00pm - 1:00pm,  
CDCC Conference Room
- Wednesday, April 16th**  
24th Annual 55+ Expo  
9:00am - 3:00pm,  
Bally's Dover Casino Resort
- Friday, April 18th**  
Good Friday / Office Closed
- Wednesday, April 30th**  
Ambassador Committee Meeting  
4:30pm, Bayhealth at Blue Hen Medical Facility
- Wednesday, April 30th**  
Sunset Business Mixer  
5:00pm - 7:00pm, Bayhealth at Blue Hen Medical Facility

## MAY

- Thursday, May 1st**  
Leadership Central Delaware  
8:00am - 5:00pm, Economic Development Day
- Thursday, May 1st**  
Kent County Open for Business  
8:30am - 10:00am, Kent County Levy Court
- Wednesday, May 7th**  
LCD Class of 2025 Invitational  
5:00pm - 7:00pm, Burwood Estates in Dover
- Thursday, May 8th**  
Bluesuiters Golf Tournament  
10:00am Reg.; 11:00am Start, Jonathan's Landing
- Tuesday, May 13th** CDCC Board Meeting  
7:30am - 8:30am, Faw Casson
- Wednesday, May 14th**  
Coffee Coaching 8:00am - 9:00am, via Zoom
- Wednesday, May 14th**  
Marketing Committee Meeting  
2:30pm, via Zoom
- Thursday, May 15th** Member Orientation  
12:00pm - 1:30pm, via Zoom
- Monday, May 19th** CDCC Executive Committee Meeting  
8:00am - 10:00am, CDCC Conference Room
- Tuesday, May 20th**  
LCD Steering Committee Meeting  
12:00pm - 1:00pm, CDCC Conference Room
- Monday, May 26th**  
Memorial Day / Office Closed
- Wednesday, May 28th**  
Ambassador Committee Meeting  
3:30pm, Tre Sorelle Dolce Ice Cream & Mini Golf
- Wednesday, May 28th**  
The Chamber Mini Masters / Sunset Business Mixer  
4:00pm - 7:00pm, Tre Sorelle Dolce Ice Cream & Mini Golf

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



# Thinking BIG for 20 Years: An Interview with David Boothe

For 20 years, B.I.G. Investment Services has been a trusted financial partner. As the firm celebrates this milestone, founder David Boothe reflects on the journey, lessons learned, and the future ahead.



**Q&A with David Boothe**

**Q: Take us back 20 years—what inspired you to start BIG Investment Services?**

I had opened the first office in Kent County for a national firm 5 years earlier. During that time, I felt things could be done much better. People want to feel valued and heard, and not be just another number and so I decided to launch B.I.G.

**Q: What were some of the biggest challenges in those early years?**

I had already done the heavy lifting of establishing a good client base and nearly 100% of those clients moved with me. Still, we had to establish B.I.G. as a

trusted name by building our brand and delivering top-tier service to stand out as the go-to for financial planning and wealth management.

**Q: How has your vision for the company evolved over time?**

The vision has remained the same, to change as many people's lives for the positive as possible. That said, I had to work through a common industry constraint – scalability. I also felt that investment management solutions such as mutual funds and third-party managers were expensive and missing the mark. Needing to address these issues, we made a dramatic and innovative change 16 years ago by creating in-house investment models that are tailored to specific client needs. This allows us to manage hundreds of millions of dollars for our clients and know what's going on with every dollar, every day.

**Q: What has been the key to BIG's success?**

Putting clients first—always. From recommendations to our service model and money management, our team genuinely cares about client outcomes. That's the foundation of our success.

**Q: Can you share a milestone that stands out as particularly meaningful?**

Seeing client outcomes come to fruition. After doing this for 25 years, I've seen people start companies that became wildly successful, seen their newborns graduate college and had clients go from the idea of retirement being a nightmare to a dream come true. Having a client call and say, "I'm living my best life and I just wanted to call and say thank you." is better than any of the awards we've ever won.

**Q: As you celebrate 20 years, what excites you about the future?**

My team. It's hard to cultivate a group of incredible people and we truly have what I believe to be one of the best teams in the country. I'm super excited for them and where they're going to take this firm over the next few decades.

**Q: What advice would you give to someone looking to build a long-lasting, successful business?**

Strive to help as many people achieve their desires as possible. Your clients. Your employees. Your spouse. Your kids. Your strategic partners. Don't make it about you, give 110% making it about

them and success will come at levels you never imagined.

**Q: How can people connect with BIG Investment Services and be part of the next chapter?**

Join us at our 20th-anniversary open house on April 23rd! Visit our website, tune into The Big Money Report podcast, follow us on social media, or schedule a consultation.



*BIG Investment Services celebrates 20 years of trust, education, and community impact. David Boothe and his team stay committed to guiding clients toward financial success—one smart decision at a time. Here's to the next 20 years of Thinking BIG!*





**CORNERSTONE**  
MEMBERSHIP

# April is National Safe Digging Month – Remember to Call 811 Before You Dig

At Chesapeake Utilities, safety is our utmost priority; it's at the core of everything we do. Whether you're a homeowner planting a new tree, a business installing signage or a contractor breaking ground on a major project, one simple step can prevent costly and dangerous accidents: call 811 before you dig.



## Do You Know What Runs Underground?

Beneath the ground, an intricate network of utility lines crisscrosses our communities delivering essential services like electricity, water, internet and natural gas. Damaging any of these lines can have serious consequences, including:

- Gas Leaks – Striking a natural gas line can release natural gas into the air, which can create a hazardous situation.
- Service Disruptions – Hitting a water, power, or internet line can cut off essential services to homes, businesses and even emergency response centers.
- Costly Repairs – The person responsible for damaging a line may be liable for expensive repairs, delays and even legal consequences.

## Call 811 – It's the Law

Failing to call 811 before digging isn't just risky—it can be costly. Each state enforces its own regulations and penalties for excavation violations, which may include fines ranging from hundreds to thousands of dollars per violation, liability for repair costs to damaged utility lines and even legal action if the damage leads to injury or widespread service disruptions.



By law, anyone digging with powered equipment is required to call 811 first, and in many states, even manual digging may require a call if utilities are nearby.

## How 811 Works

In Delaware and Maryland, Delmarva811 is the approved regional one call system and notification center. To get started, simply dial 811 on your phone (or submit a request online at [Delmarva811.com](http://Delmarva811.com)) at least two to three business days before digging, then wait for a technician to mark underground lines using colored flags or paint. Once markings are in place, carefully follow excavating guidelines to avoid damaging utility lines.

Whether you're tackling a small landscaping project or a large-scale excavation, follow these best practices to dig safely:









- Hand Dig Near Marked Lines – When working within 18-24 inches of a utility marking, use hand tools instead of power equipment.
- Don't Assume Old Markings are Still Accurate – If work is delayed for any reason, call 811 again to refresh markings before digging.
- Look for Signs of Unmarked Lines – If you see pipes, meters or utility access points nearby, proceed with caution and verify with 811.
- Respect the Flags – Each colored flag represents a different type of utility. Never remove them until digging is complete.

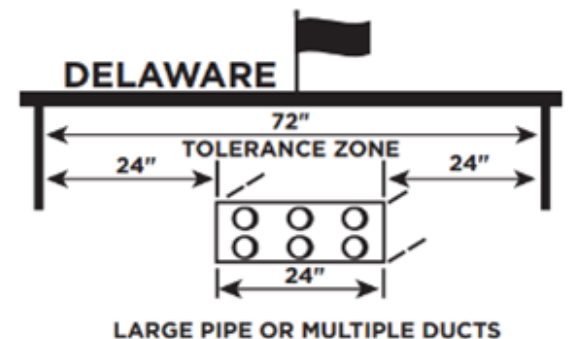
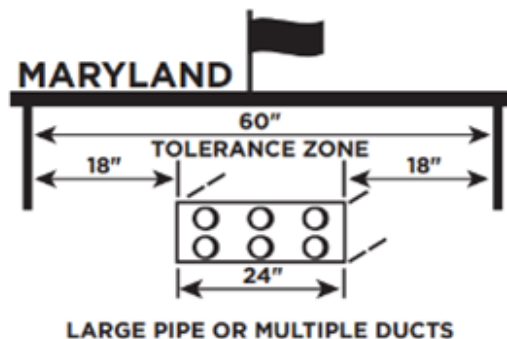
- Report Damage Immediately – If you accidentally hit a line and/or if you detect the "rotten egg" odor commonly associated with natural gas and suspect a gas leak, immediately move away from the area. Once you are at a safe distance (at least 500 feet away), call your natural gas utility (if you are a Chesapeake Utilities customer, dial 800.427.2883) or dial 911, if needed.

Remember that safe digging starts with you – there is no project that is too small to warrant a quick call to 811. A free call can protect you, your community and critical infrastructure from potentially hazardous and costly accidents. So, before you pick up a shovel or start a backhoe, remember: Call 811. Know what's below. Dig safely.

For more pipeline awareness and safety information, we encourage you to visit [CHPKgas.com/SafetyResources](http://CHPKgas.com/SafetyResources) or [Delmarva811.com](http://Delmarva811.com)

## APWA UNIFORM COLOR CODE FOR MARKING UNDERGROUND UTILITY LINES

	<b>WHITE:</b> Proposed excavation
	<b>PINK:</b> Temporary survey markings
	<b>RED:</b> Electric power lines, cables, conduit and lighting cables
	<b>YELLOW:</b> Gas, oil, steam, petroleum or gaseous materials
	<b>ORANGE:</b> Communication, alarm or signal lines, cables or conduit
	<b>BLUE:</b> Potable water
	<b>PURPLE:</b> Reclaimed water, irrigation and slurry lines
	<b>GREEN:</b> Sewers and drain lines



# LCD '25 Public Safety & Criminal Justice Day!

The Leadership Central Delaware Class (CDCC) of 2025 recently experienced an insightful and eye-opening day focused on Public Safety & Criminal Justice. Held on March 6th, this immersive experience was designed to provide participants with a deeper understanding of the challenges, necessary leadership qualities, and responsibilities within these critical sectors – as well as a few surprises along the way. The day was guided by leadership traits of vision, competence, and the ability to teach and be taught.

The class began their day at the Delaware Emergency Management Agency (DEMA) Training Room with a panel discussion on contemporary law enforcement challenges, including recruitment and retention. Panelists included Chief Cecilia Ashe (Milford Police Department), Secretary Josh Bushweller (DE Dept. of Safety and Homeland Security), Chief Elmer Harris (Delaware Capitol Police), Chief Torrie

James (Smyrna Police Department), and Captain Justin Viens (436th Security Forces). They shared insights on leadership, accountability, and decision-making in high-pressure situations.

Following a brief break, the class engaged in a Delaware Emergency Management Agency (DEMA) presentation and facility tour, led by A.J. Schall, Director of DEMA. This session provided an in-depth look at the agency's role in emergency preparedness and response coordination.

The group then traveled to the Delaware Information & Analysis Center (DIAC), where Brad Iseminger, Vulnerability Assessment Specialist for the DE State Police, led the group in Violent Intruder Preparedness and Response (VIPR) training, commonly known as active shooter training. The training covered real-world case studies and practical strategies for responding to mass shooting incidents. Following lunch, provided by Bavarian Bakery &

Deli, the Class of 2025 was briefed on DIAC's role and provided services and briefly heard from Lt. William Harris, Deputy Director, DE State Police.

Following this, the class visited the Delaware State Fire School (DSFS), where Training Administrator Tucker Dempsey led a discussion on fire prevention, emergency response training, and the role of DSFS in equipping first responders. An outdoor tour of the facility showcased hands-on training simulations that prepare firefighters for real-world scenarios.

The final stop of the day was the Delaware State Police Academy, where Lt. Edward Larney and Captain Jonathon Packard led a session on police academy training. They detailed the rigorous training process that cadets undergo, emphasizing the pillars of Honor, Integrity, Courage, Loyalty, Attitude, Discipline, and Service. Their presentation underscored the impor-


ance of resilience and adaptability in law enforcement training.

The CDCC extends its gratitude to the public service officials who took time from their demanding schedules to share their knowledge and experiences. Special thanks go to the Public Safety Day co-chairs Denise Vendrick (Faw Casson) and Kathy Jordan (retired) for their leadership in organizing the event.

The class departed with a renewed appreciation for the leadership qualities essential in public safety roles. They gained valuable insights into the daily realities of first responders and the collective responsibility of community members to contribute to public safety. As leaders, it is imperative to stay informed, prepared, and proactive in fostering a secure community.


*Thank you to all Delaware public safety leaders who dedicate themselves to protecting and serving our communities!*






The diamond program of the Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce

Presented by:



Thanks to our Sponsor:



**CLASS OF 2026 INVITATIONAL**

Join us for a networking social to learn about the LCD program and how you can evolve into the next generation of leaders in Central DE.

**Wed, May 7th | 5:00-7:00pm**

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## AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE

Continued from Page 1

In the process, the CDCC members nominate the candidates and choose the winners. This is a community-based voted award event, where our members speak on behalf of the amazing leaders serving and working in our community every day. It's a process that takes months to complete, and for good reason. Nominations have been submitted months prior by our members and nine (3 from each category) are chosen by the Awards for Excellence in Business Committee, comprised of previous award winners. After close review of the list of business leaders nominated by the members, the final award winners excelling in business are selected!

Nominees are chosen based upon their professionalism, performance, leadership capabilities, and their willingness to learn and grow. The Committee takes into consideration these factors when selecting the final nominees: positive interactions with the public, a demonstration of growth, a prevailing response to adversity, and a passion for service to the community. They look for nominees to be kind, driven, and community minded. Nominees are heavily involved in the community and know all about the best business practices in Central Delaware. To be nominated means to be among the best of the best. This prestigious process is highly revered throughout the community, and the CDCC wants

everyone to know it is a tremendous honor to be nominated. Thank you to everyone who nominated someone special - we rely on a commitment to excellence from you and your nominees!

However, there is still more work to be done. We need YOUR help in selecting the winners in each category: Large Employer of the Year, Small Business of the Year, and Young Professional of the Year. It's time to reflect on the leadership actions of each of the three nominees for these three categories. Who will get your coveted vote? Voting will begin in May. In the May issue of the Chamber Connections, readers will see biographical and business information for nominees. It is important to have a good understanding of who you are voting for and what makes them shine. Take some time to study this information and be ready to vote!

Official ballots will be emailed through our Monday e-news and regular broadcast email messages to our CDCC members at the end of April. At that time our members are invited to cast one vote for each category and return them to us no later than May 23rd. All nine nominees will be acknowledged and honored at our Annual Excellence in Business Awards Dinner in June where the winners will be announced. Thank you in advance for your participation, your vote matters. We look forward to celebrating with you on Wednesday, June 18th at Bally's Dover Casino Resort! It will be a great party!

## And the Nominees Are...

### Small Business of Year

<p><b>Delaware Farm Bureau</b></p> 	<p><b>Forrest Avenue Animal Hospital</b></p> 	<p><b>Hilton Garden Inn Dover</b></p> 
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### Large Business of Year

<p><b>Bally's Dover Casino Resort</b></p> 	<p><b>Century Engineering</b></p> 	<p><b>NKS Distributors</b></p> 
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### Young Professional of the Year

<p><b>Codi Lyn Canasa</b> Owner &amp; Head Piercer Agape Body Piercing</p> 	<p><b>Kylie Frazer</b> Community Outreach &amp; Events Specialist Bayhealth</p> 	<p><b>Malcolm Jacob</b> Transportation Planner Dover/Kent County MPO</p> 
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## Last Year's Winners



**2024 Young Professional of the Year**  
Allan Timlin, Roma Italian Restaurant  
- Sul Tempo Cocktail Lounge



**Large Employer of the Year**  
Del-One Federal Credit Union



**Small Business of the Year**  
Bright Side Roofing

# Member News

## Meet Your Dover City Council Candidates



As time approaches for the City of Dover's regular municipal elections, the Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce (CDCC) is pleased to introduce the people who will potentially serve as your voice in city government.

Regular City of Dover Municipal elections are held in odd-numbered years on the third Tuesday in April. The mayor and nine council members are elected to four-year staggered terms on a non-partisan basis. Two members are

elected from each of the four Council districts; the ninth member of council and the mayor are elected at large.

This year, there are 13 people running for 5 council seats. You will be introduced to 8 of those candidates in this article.

The CDCC received contact information for all City Council candidates through the City Clerk's office.

Despite our best efforts to schedule every candidate for an interview, we were

unable to connect with the following: Anthony Floyd, Jr. – District 1, Faye D. White – District 2, Jo Ann Mather – District 3, and Leroy Bradshaw, Jr. – District 4.

In addition, Shereen L. Woodward Onyekachi – at large, was unfortunately not able to interview within our necessary time frame.

This year's regular and special City of Dover municipal elections will be held on Tuesday, April 15, 2025, between the

hours of 7 a.m. and 8 p.m. The polling places will be announced closer to the date of the elections.

The questions below were compiled by the CDCC's Legislative Affairs Committee. They were presented to the candidates during in-person interviews with Committee members. The answers have been transcribed from recordings of those meetings.

### David Anderson – District 4

#### 1. What is your number one objective as a returning or new City Councilperson?

My number 1 objective will be to ensure that we maintain a pro-business attitude in the City of Dover. As you may know, we've worked to change the image of the city.

Back in 2017, we had the "Making Dover Prosper" initiative, an initiative that came largely from the Chamber in response to my question, "What we do we need to do to make the City more business friendly?" Dover's unemployment at that time was twice the state average – within two years it was at the state's average and now it's below. We reformed zoning, regulations, time frames, and other regulatory processes. I'm not saying that we will automatically do whatever the Chamber suggests – there are many constituents and varied interests – but items that come from the Chamber do receive a serious hearing. These items are always important to my constituents.

And my number 2 objective is to see through the Master Plan that the people have adopted.

#### 2. Do you believe the City Manager form of Government serves the City of Dover well?

a. Specifically, do you think the City's Charter should be changed to empower the Mayor with more duties beyond the police department.

Yes, to both. The city manager form of government provides the stability and professionalism needed by a city of our size. The city manager is accountable to the mayor and council if he doesn't do the job. The mayor should have more influence with economic development areas (this would require a charter change). This is something that is in his job description. And there are some



David Anderson

other things that the mayor could do, like perhaps, the events that the DDP no longer does, that money could be moved to the mayor's budget. The mayor is the full-time staffer; the mayor should have more to do with the public facing aspects of our city; the mayor is the logical focal point for that.

#### 3. Do you support the efforts of the Downtown Dover Partnership, specifically in the revitalization of Dover's downtown area?

100%

#### 4. Now that an ordinance has been passed in the City of Dover to allow the retail sale of marijuana along the Rt. 13 corridor, would you support expanding that area to include the retail sale of marijuana in the downtown area?

Let's see how it works where it is currently allowed before we talk about expanding it. At this moment, NO, but that's not to say never.

#### 5. In your opinion, what is the answer to the rapidly growing homeless population in the City of Dover?

The City's role is limited because the charter does not provide for the city to be a social service agency. The role is limited – but not eliminated. The unsheltered working group has generated a plan, but more money will have to be raised. The churches and service organizations will need to be connected to intelligent government policy that connects people to needed services. We need to investigate how transitional housing can be done well without destroying local neighborhoods. There are 8 major homeless populations based on the reasons for their situation that all need to be dealt with differently: veterans, newly released from prison, substance abuse, mental illness, etc. The state needs to honor its commitment in things like group homes, case management, etc.

a. Do you believe there is a public safety issue in Dover?

People who violate the law and others' rights should be treated accordingly. Some of the issues fall under public safety, but some fall under quality of life. People need some measure of dignity – but it's difficult to know where the line is because so many people abuse it. We must enforce the law, but we have to do it with compassion.

b. What needs to be done about panhandling, vagrancy, trespassing, marijuana consumption in public spaces, etc.?

Work with the state on new panhandling laws. The AG is not enforcing certain laws. We are currently in discussion with the attorney general to explore the creation of laws that are enforceable.

c. Related to this – do you think Dover should provide more services for these individuals?

The city will need to coordinate with partners like the state.

#### 6. What is your stance on the following City issues:

a. Mandatory installation of Back Flow preventers –

We have to maintain mandated state standards. We have repealed any regulations that went beyond state standards. We currently have a moratorium and will try and take a posture this summer – hopefully, with the input of the chamber, realtors, and others.

b. The stormwater utility fee – It made a lot of sense BUT the execution of it turned out to be terrible. That was repealed. We have an enormous cost, but the majority is for state infrastructure. The state needs to get us grants, which they have access to through the bipartisan infrastructure bill, to pay for those costs.

c. Shopping cart ordinance fee – I support it. I don't like it, but way the law is, we can't clean up the shopping carts that are all around the city because they are someone else's property – we need to have enabling language. We need to work out the challenges for the retail

community before the ordinances come back out.

#### 7. Within the next fiscal year, would you support raising taxes or fees on the business community, or residential properties?

I have not been a fan of raising taxes – if we had to do it, it would be something small. Raising taxes can be counterproductive to what we're trying to do with encouraging new businesses. We've done some innovative things with lean government initiatives. We've tried to consolidate, reorganize, and make sure that we are operating in a lean and efficient way. Without that, our tax rate right now would be 10 cents higher.

a. Do you support increasing water, sewer, or electric fees?

It depends on the market rates of our supplies, power and others. What I've tried to do is to find every way possible to keep those rates down, including encouraging our staff to buy when rates are down. We've done that very successfully. That's why we have the 2nd lowest rates in the state. The goal is to keep it that way. I do not support raising them unconnected to market conditions.

### Andre Boggerty – Council member at large

#### 1. What is your number one objective as a returning or new City Councilperson?

We want to continue to see progress. We've made a lot of progress in these four years. Everything's not perfect. You have to be able to understand the issues. As a new councilman, you go in with what you think is a wealth of knowledge – and then, as my grandparents used to say, you sit down and learn something. I want to continue to have positive relationships with our business community and also those who provide



Andre Boggerty

social services and productive conversations. We need to grow the economy and balance it with all the social issues that every city in the USA faces.

**2. Do you believe the City Manager form of Government serves the City of Dover well?**

a. Specifically, do you think the City's Charter should be changed to empower the Mayor with more duties beyond the police department?

Absolutely. The mayoral duties should definitely change. Dover has adopted me since 1992. I'm from Detroit – Dover has adopted me. It's not 1992 anymore. We have 54,000 people. People from the north are coming south and the people of the south are coming north. This wave of people is coming in our direction; it just hasn't hit us yet. We're the next Middletown. We're two to three years out. Neighborhoods are filling up! Our Mayor is going to be busy and it's more than policing. It's about building positive relationships. He's going to have to be out there and be the face.

**3. Do you support the efforts of the Downtown Dover Partnership, specifically in the revitalization of Dover's downtown area?**

I do support DDP – at one time I was working with them on the board. There's a show right now on TV that I want to reference here. The man's name is Peter Stantanello and he's on YouTube. He travels all across the country and tells the stories of communities that were once bustling and now have failed. They are places that were once bustling, but their industries left and now they are suffering. We need to make sure our downtown is sustainable. We need to make sure that our pillars are sustainable so that we don't make that show. I think we need a good advocate out there – and DDP is doing it, and I support their work. I'm excited about what is going on down there. It's up to us. We need to make sure that we build our economy while we rebuild the downtown.

**4. Now that an ordinance has been passed in the City of Dover to allow the retail sale of marijuana along the Rt. 13 corridor, would you support expanding that area to include the retail sale of marijuana in the downtown area?**

No, not right away. There's one company that's done a good job of being sustainable in the downtown – and I'd love to be able to help them. But the answer right now is No.

My support of the ordinance was in an effort to control our own narrative, rather than leaving ourselves open for a higher policy/authority to tell us what we have to do.

**5. In your opinion, what is the answer to the rapidly growing homeless population in the City of Dover?**

a. Do you believe there is a public safety issue in Dover?

I am sensitive to the fact that I was homeless twice, overcame it, so be it. It is a safety issue – and it's an incredible nuisance. The trash just burns me up! It's a nuisance issue.

b. What needs to be done about panhandling, vagrancy, trespassing, marijuana consumption in public spaces, etc.?

We do need to make sure that it's contained and that people can walk downtown and are not solicited. One thing I hope we can pilot that they started in Wilmington is the "downtown vision." I would love to start that program in our downtown. Employ people whose presence is designed to keep watch and can point people in the right direction. Also, Dover is bigger than the downtown. There are also issues related to this in other areas.

c. Related to this – do you think Dover should provide more services for these individuals?

It's definitely an issue. I don't think Dover should do that. There are organizations out there that are responsible. There needs to be collaboration and partnerships on this issue. We are not going to find the magic wand.

**6. What is your stance on the following City issues:**

a. Mandatory installation of Back Flow preventers – No.

b. The stormwater utility fee – I am still trying to grasp this area. I don't want any more unnecessary fees. I understand the necessity of it, but I also want to make sure that we can be fair with it. If we find a way that business owners don't have to pay these exorbitant amounts, yes – but I won't support it if our small and mid-sized businesses are being punished.

c. Shopping cart ordinance fee – Fred Neil is probably one of the most studied, informed people I know. I will support that ordinance, but I am open to suggestions about what that looks like. If we can help the stores with preventative measures, we should be looking at that.

It is important for council members to remember that, just because they are elected as a council person, they are not suddenly experts in everything. We need to collaborate and form partnerships with people who can give us appropriate feedback and information to make the decisions at hand.

**7. Within the next fiscal year, would you support raising taxes or fees on**

**the business community, or residential properties?**

a. Do you support increasing water, sewer, or electric fees?

I think we've done that enough, so definitely not in the next fiscal year. No. We do need more income, but I don't think it should be on the back of our businesses and residents.

**Justina Brinkley – District 1**

**1. What is your number one objective as a returning or new City Councilperson?**

My number 1 priority is our budget. At this moment, I feel that we will experience a deficit within the next two years if we don't obtain funds. People on the council are voting for pay increases and other purchases – but they have no idea how we are going to pay for those things. We need to seek funding, we need to seek grants, not only for our constituents, but also for our business owners. We need to become more sustainable for those individuals who make up our city.



**Justina Brinkley**

**2. Do you believe the City Manager form of Government serves the City of Dover well?**

a. Specifically, do you think the City's Charter should be changed to empower the Mayor with more duties beyond the police department?

I believe that the management – the entire city of Dover – could stand to improve. We need funding to sustain – we want people to come here. We need to make sure those roles and responsibilities are clearly defined. Before we decide to give the Mayor responsibilities beyond the Police Department, we need the Mayor to concentrate ON the Police Department to make sure things are working the way they should. At this time, there are many concerns, and those concerns need to be addressed. The city manager form of government is the right way to go.

**3. Do you support the efforts of the Downtown Dover Partnership, specifically in the revitalization of Dover's downtown area?**

DDP is much like Downtown Development District. I am for development in the city of dover. BUT we need to look at our budget. We need to acquire investments. We need to know which businesses and which people are going to thrive here. We MUST still ensure that the city's spending is not over the amount of revenue. We need to figure out where that funding is coming from – we can't

continue to tax our homeowners and over tax our families, our veterans.

**4. Now that an ordinance has been passed in the City of Dover to allow the retail sale of marijuana along the Rt. 13 corridor, would you support expanding that area to include the retail sale of marijuana in the downtown area?**

NO – I would not. They did a study. The results of the study showed that the 13 corridor was the best fit. I am concerned that retail marijuana in the downtown would keep people from coming.

**5. In your opinion, what is the answer to the rapidly growing homeless population in the City of Dover?**

I am a social work student and obtaining my master's degree. I volunteer daily at the People's Church. I feel that we need to implement a more holistic approach. The City of Dover needs to take more of an interest. This population is not going away – it is here and is growing because of mental health and substance abuse. People have come here – life has happened – and now they are stuck here. The price of housing is prohibitive for some of these people.

a. Do you believe there is a public safety issue in Dover?

This can be a public safety issue – yes.

b. What needs to be done about panhandling, vagrancy, trespassing, marijuana consumption in public spaces, etc.?

I believe that it starts higher than city government. There is a need for legislation and enforcement by our attorney general. The attorney general's office is choosing not to prosecute some of these things. It is definitely an issue for business owners. I do believe that the police need to be walking a path in the City of Dover, I believe there is a need for bike patrols, absolutely.

c. Related to this – do you think Dover should provide more services for these individuals?

**6. What is your stance on the following City issues:**

a. Mandatory installation of Back Flow preventers – The City of Dover once again needs to find funding for this. They cannot continue to dig into the pockets of residents and building owners. There must be another way to generate the needed funding. Otherwise, no one will want to continue to do business here.

b. The stormwater utility fee – They voted wrong on it. I am a single mom – and my response, when that fee came in the utility bill was, "Oh no, another bill!" Eventually, the fee was retracted, in my opinion, only because of the larger corporations whose fees were



much higher than the average person. I believe that it's going to come back and must be revisited – and again, we are going to have to figure out how to pay for it.

c. Shopping cart ordinance fee – I am for the homeless when it comes to advocacy. We need the shopping carts to remain on the properties of the owners. No matter how you look at it, if the carts are removed, it is a theft. There needs to be a consequence for this activity, but I am not sure that the penalty should be jail. Business owners should not be charged for the city's efforts in recovering the carts. The city should not impose these fees on the business owners.

**7. Within the next fiscal year, would you support raising taxes or fees on the business community, or residential properties?** No

a. Do you support increasing water, sewer, or electric fees? No  
 No to all. They've already visited that and it's not working. I'm all for zero based budget. We need to see where every dollar is going – I believe that there are unnecessary expenditures in the budget that could save us money.

**Donyale Hall – 2nd district**

**1. What is your number one objective as a returning or new City Councilperson?**

My number one objective as a lifelong resident of the Dover community: I'd like to see us develop forward. I think that for a long time we've been kind of stagnant and have regressed in many areas. I'm concerned as a small business owner; I'm concerned as a parent; I'm concerned as someone who was in the military and has watched our military community acclimate around what goes on in and around Dover. I have a passion for making progress here. I will be diligent in making decisions that move us forward. I am encouraged by some of the things that are going on in the Mosaic Plan, the redevelopment of downtown Dover. I'm very pro-business, very free-market oriented. I'd like to see us do the things that will bring foot traffic to our downtown Dover community in a positive manner. The DDP has been spot-on in growing our downtown.



**Donyale Hall**

**2. Do you believe the City Manager form of Government serves the City of Dover well?**

a. Specifically, do you think the City's Charter should be changed to empower the Mayor with more duties beyond the police department?

At the municipal level, we could broaden the scope and the footprint of what we are able to do. Empowering people locally in the advancement of the City's mission and vision is important. Maybe we should revisit and look at expanding the scope of what the municipal level has an opportunity to do here.

**3. Do you support the efforts of the Downtown Dover Partnership, specifically in the revitalization of Dover's downtown area?**

I definitely support the DDP and the work they are doing.

- What do you value about the uniqueness of Downtown Dover?  
 I love Dover's quaintness. The appeal of the architecture has been a huge draw as it highlights the city's unique history. I have enjoyed spending time touring our downtown and learning its rich history. At a time, such as this, it's important that we capture not only the quaintness, but also the history and build on what we have, creating an atmosphere that helps people experience the warmth of the culture that is downtown Dover. We've made some valuable strides on what that looks like through the DDP. The plans that I've seen allow us to remain with that quaint charm and appeal - hopefully the plans will help us to attract others to the area as well. What we bring here is going to be infectious and draw other people to come who want to be part of our local family.

- What do you think Dover needs to do to attract additional employers?  
 My area of business is remodeling. I also provide services with the launcher program – I've worked with Will Grimes to help teach that class. I've been a support for businesses here on how to expand and grow businesses – I've had a real first-hand experience with what people are saying what they need to thrive and flourish here. I'd like to work to help small businesses connect with the people and the resources that will allow them to establish themselves here and grow their businesses.

**4. Now that an ordinance has been passed in the City of Dover to allow the retail sale of marijuana along the Rt. 13 corridor, would you support expanding that area to include the retail sale of marijuana in the downtown area?**

I'm not a huge supporter of it being in the downtown area. In some regards, I think that it is counterproductive to what we are trying to do and develop in the downtown area. If we are going to allow it, I think having it outside of the downtown is a better strategy - because of the foot traffic and walkability we seek in the downtown. I think that creating

an infrastructure to allow the sale of marijuana on the perimeter of the city is a better fit.

**5. In your opinion, what is the answer to the rapidly growing homeless population in the City of Dover?**

The capital redevelopment plan is spot on – more thriving businesses, more housing, more eyes on the street – will decrease the amount of loitering and just hanging out by the homeless population. So, I think that strategy is spot on.

We definitely need to address the situation. When I look at Delaware, it is not just DE residents who have fallen on hard times, but many are from elsewhere. There's a certain element that has been attracting to this area because of DE's weak response to panhandling and loitering, trespassing and the like. I would be diligent in having that conversation to figure out how to address the problem, and redirect these people in a compassionate way, and connect them with resources. Relationships with a multipronged approach – city has a part in that but doesn't need to go it alone.

- a. Do you believe there is a public safety issue in Dover? YES. The Police department is doing what it can to create an adequate budget and maintain enough manpower. They are working diligently to create and maintain an adequate force.
- b. What needs to be done about panhandling, vagrancy, trespassing, marijuana consumption in public spaces, etc.?  
 Related to this – do you think Dover should provide more services for these individuals?

**6. What is your stance on the following City issues:**

- a. Mandatory installation of Back Flow preventers – NO
- b. The stormwater utility fee – NO. This definitely needs a deeper look. I certainly don't want to see these things be passed onto the businesses in such a way that the ripple effect goes on down to the consumer. As I said, I am very pro-business – always in favor of cost reducing items for consumers and things that drive business here.
- c. Shopping cart ordinance fee – Do not agree with passing the expense on to the local businesses. How can I be responsible for what someone else takes from me?! It's bothersome to me that we are proposing to hold the business owners responsible for merchandise that was essentially stolen from them.

**7. Within the next fiscal year, would you support raising taxes or fees on the business community, or residential properties?**

NO. We're not good stewards of the money that we take right now. I think that if we looked at how we've spent what we've already taken, there are some savings to be had internally. I think until we audit what that looks like, I don't think it's fair to overburden and overtax people.

a. Do you support increasing water, sewer, or electric fees? NO. Not at this time.

**Donna Mitchell – District 2**

**1. What is your number one objective as a returning or new City Councilperson?**

I am running on three topics: financial stability, communication, and transparency.

My number 1 objective is to bring financial stability back to the city because I think we've lost some of that.

Communication is not clear and is lacking. People have not been invited to the conversations before something is implemented. No one is including the customers in the conversation.

Regarding transparency, there have been meetings and executive sessions where things are discussed in depth, but coming out of them the minutes simply say "council adopts recommendation." The minutes are terribly generic and include very little detail. There's been a lot of turnover and I am wondering if some of them don't really know the questions to ask. I am looking to be part of the solution, not part of the problem.



**Donna Mitchell**

**2. Do you believe the City Manager form of Government serves the City of Dover well?**

a. Specifically, do you think the City's Charter should be changed to empower the Mayor with more duties beyond the police department?

Yes. The city manager to me is the chief operating officer and needs to be well-versed in how to run the city. He's a professional in what he does. I almost think the police should be under the city manager as well. If you put the police department under the mayor, it politicizes the police department because the mayor is an elected official.

I believe we do need a mayor, and that the mayor should be on the dias and have a vote. I think it would be beneficial to eliminate the at-large person. I believe that the mayor should be the cheerleader for Dover and should have economic development for the City of Dover.

**3. Do you support the efforts of the Downtown Dover Partnership, specif-**

## ically in the revitalization of Dover's downtown area?

Yes. I support it, but for it to be successful, we have got to get Dover cleaned up successfully. We must work with the police, the community, and everybody to be successful. I do support the project.

## 4. Now that an ordinance has been passed in the City of Dover to allow the retail sale of marijuana along the Rt. 13 corridor, would you support expanding that area to include the retail sale of marijuana in the downtown area?

I would want evidence based on how it's working in other parts of the city before I could say that I would want or not want it downtown.

## 5. In your opinion, what is the answer to the rapidly growing homeless population in the City of Dover?

a. Do you believe there is a public safety issue in Dover?

On the crime related to homelessness: I would like to see a comprehensive plan as to how the police will address those issues and how they are going to measure its success. I want to see alignment between the city and the agencies that provide services and address the related issues. I want to see alignment so that we can all work on this together.

b. What needs to be done about panhandling, vagrancy, trespassing, marijuana consumption in public spaces, etc.?

In addition, there needs to be a conversation with the attorney general's office to make sure that the policies from there are also in alignment with the comprehensive plan.

c. Related to this – do you think Dover should provide more services for these individuals?

I feel badly for them. I think those are state issues. The city doesn't have the budget to handle those issues. When we partner with people, the state needs to be part of those conversations – the county should also be part of the conversation.

## 6. What is your stance on the following City issues:

a. Mandatory installation of Back Flow preventers –

I have done some research on the city's policy and the state's code. Is that mandate motivated by state code or local governance? If you are mandating, there needs to be some fact-finding before it happens.

b. The stormwater utility fee –

The council has not done a good job of informing the public of what they are working on. If they were more transparent about what is happening and what the needs are.

To me, the way to fit it in the budget would be to put street sweeping and leaf collection under street maintenance – that would help free up the money needed to take care of the stormwater issue.

c. Shopping cart ordinance fee – I don't know how you can do that to a business if they have no control over that. The shopping carts are there for the convenience of their customers and if someone takes one, what are they supposed to do? I found this to be onerous on the businesses.

## 7. Within the next fiscal year, would you support raising taxes or fees on the business community, or residential properties?

a. Do you support increasing water, sewer, or electric fees?

Maybe. I know they are doing a water study right now. We do utilities studies and then forecast our expenses. That's how the rate consultants determine the rates. We also must cover the bond covenants. The City is not currently in compliance with their financial policies. They are required to do a 3-year plan for how they are going to get back in compliance – to my knowledge, that has not been done. I would need to see what it all looks like first before I could make a determination on taxes and fees. I can't say today whether or not a tax will be necessary. There needs to be a study and rationale before any kind of increase is implemented.

### Fred Neil – District 3, Incumbent

#### 1. What is your number one objective as a returning or new City Councilperson?

My number one priority is basically to explore what we can do to secure the money necessary to run the city – including infrastructure, stormwater, etc. We've reached out to the state – some

of the city's needs should be paid for by the federal government. Outside of that, money must be collected in a way that doesn't hurt businesses or residents.

My #1 issue is the budget and how the shortfall impacts infrastructure. The city's charter does not include some areas where resolution is needed: health, education, social services... we must seek the assistance of other entities to acquire those services from other places.

#### 2. Do you believe the City Manager form of Government serves the City of Dover well?

• Specifically, do you think the City's Charter should be changed to empower



Fred Neil

the Mayor with more duties beyond the police department?

A city manager is perfect for this sized city. Earlier in my career, I worked in Baltimore for a powerful mayor... In Dover, it cannot be a one-man operation that has that type of control – there is too much potential for conflicts of interest – there is a danger that services can end up being distributed first (or only) to those close to the mayor. Having nine people making the decisions collectively, as is the case with our council, serves the elected body in a better, more efficient way under a strong mayor who knows how things should work. I wouldn't want to see us relying on one person, perhaps with a "dictator complex." We are better off having multiple views coming together to make collective decisions.

#### 3. Do you support the efforts of the Downtown Dover Partnership, specifically in the revitalization of Dover's downtown area?

I am probably the only person here who saw the renaissance of Downtown Baltimore – Inner Harbor. That development made a total change in Baltimore. While the changes we seek are not on the same scale as those in Baltimore, we can be confident that the money invested will attract new money and new residents, visitors, etc. We are excited to see the coming change – new attractions, new retail, more eyes on the street, etc.

• What do you value about the uniqueness of Downtown Dover?

Dover has that small town colonial feel – that needs to remain the essence of the downtown experience. We have a unique history! The coming change should promote walkability, centralization of mobility, housing, supermarket, etc. The change can't be isolated to one or two areas – it must be comprehensive.

• What do you think Dover needs to do to attract additional employers?

In essence we're doing it. Several studies have been done by Kent Economic Partnership that have highlighted manufacturing, the air park, etc. We're following the data. These studies have zeroed in on things that are good for the area. With the new things, we want to be able to hold on to people coming from the airbase. We are constantly looking for people who want to work.

#### 4. Now that an ordinance has been passed in the City of Dover to allow the retail sale of marijuana along the Rt. 13 corridor, would you support expanding that area to include the retail sale of marijuana in the downtown area?

If it was up to me, I would have voted against marijuana altogether. I didn't want to vote for it at all. We felt that allowing marijuana along highway

13 was the only option we had that would guarantee that it be prohibited downtown.

#### 5. In your opinion, what is the answer to the rapidly growing homeless population in the City of Dover?

We walk a fine line. Three types of people: 1. Persons suffering from Mental illness and don't want services; 2. Persons who have turned to crime and/or suffer from addiction; 3. People who have been kicked in the teeth by the economy – people that can be and are being helped by several agencies.

• Do you believe there is a public safety issue in Dover?

Yes, one of the three aforementioned groups is going to commit crime. Also, the panhandlers are annoying and keep people away from the downtown area, but these people won't be arrested because the Dept. of Justice won't prosecute them.

• What needs to be done about panhandling, vagrancy, trespassing, marijuana consumption in public spaces, etc.?

In response to the DOJ's inaction, the Dover City Police Department has initiated a Quality of Life Initiative where trespassers, loiterers, etc., are offered services and, if services are denied, arrested in order to take them off the streets.

• Related to this – do you think Dover should provide more services for these individuals?

If you jump into this business, you have to have the money to support it. I think it's a state problem and needs to be resolved by the state. It is unfair to put the responsibility on the city's taxpayers. The problem lies in that you can't force people to take the help.

#### 6. What is your stance on the following City issues:

• Mandatory installation of back flow preventers

This did not make any sense – this is not needed in general. There is no need to place this extra cost on residents.

• The stormwater utility fee

This also did not make any sense. The EPA is requiring that the runoff be treated, and we will need to find a way to pay for this.

• Shopping cart ordinance fee

The problem is they're out there. The homeless and others are taking them all over the place. I look at this as a "finder's fee." The City can coral them and take them back at a minimal cost; the city employees need to be paid. The \$25 fee charged to business owners to get the carts back simply goes towards covering that cost.

#### 7. Within the next fiscal year, would you support raising taxes or fees on

the business community, or residential properties?

- Do you support increasing water, sewer, or electric fees?

City water and electricity rates may go up. Usually there's usually a period when studies are done. We must maintain the infrastructure. There probably are going to be some tax/fee raises – it's the inflation factor. Our costs have gone up. If our costs go down, we'll give the money back.

**Stephan Pierce – District 2**

**1. What is your number one objective as a returning or new City Councilperson?**

I believe we need better transparency. By transparency I mean allowing the citizens know about what's happening with their taxpayer money.



**Stephan Pierce**

There are some weird personal vendettas that exist, and they get in the way of transparency. We need to revitalize our government, before we can revitalize our city.

**2. Do you believe the City Manager form of Government serves the City of Dover well?**

- a. Specifically, do you think the City's Charter should be changed to empower the Mayor with more duties beyond the police department?

I do feel like the Mayor should have more say-so over the city – not just in the areas of economic development and the police department. Many citizens view the mayoral system as weak.

**3. Do you support the efforts of the Downtown Dover Partnership, specifically in the revitalization of Dover's downtown area?**

I would like to speak to them before I have an opinion about them. I've not been able to talk with them yet – I hear good and bad. I am all down for city development – we need it, but we have to do it the right way. I am optimistic but can't form a hard and fast opinion because I haven't had the chance to actually speak to them.

**4. Now that an ordinance has been passed in the City of Dover to allow the retail sale of marijuana along the Rt. 13 corridor, would you support expanding that area to include the retail sale of marijuana in the downtown area?**

I'd have to speak to my constituents to see how they feel about that issue.

**5. In your opinion, what is the answer to the rapidly growing homeless population in the City of Dover?**

I feel like there are already a lot of nonprofit organizations around the city and the state who are trying to help these folks – but it's a bit disorganized. If we could find a vacant building that could house these people. There is a vacant building that was once a prison that is big enough to house some of these people. This might be one opportunity to develop the right way to provide for the community – giving them a place that was established for them to live together.

- a. Do you believe there is a public safety issue in Dover?

Homelessness did not begin as a public safety problem, but as transient people came in from different states, the safety issue got worse. That population grew and has become an issue.

- b. What needs to be done about panhandling, vagrancy, trespassing, marijuana consumption in public spaces, etc.?

There is nothing I can do about that myself because the Attorney General, Kathy Jenkins, has sent a memo out that has now made it more of a state issue.

- c. Related to this – do you think Dover should provide more services for these individuals?

The city should work together with the state. We are the capital of the first state – we've got to get ourselves right. As to what we could do, I am personally working on things and have ideas, but I am not willing to share those while they are still in a rough draft state.

**6. What is your stance on the following City issues:**

- a. Mandatory installation of back flow preventers – I like the idea, but I would have to look at it more in depth.

b. The stormwater utility fee – This goes back into the transparency issue. We need to find some non-taxed income to take care of this. In general, we need to find other streams of revenue.

- c. Shopping cart ordinance fee – Many people who are bringing these shopping carts off the store's property and simply just don't have the energy to bring the carts back. This seems like a reasonable way for the city to increase their revenue. I would like to speak about this with those who are working on it. But on the surface, it seems like a good idea.

**7. Within the next fiscal year, would you support raising taxes or fees on the business community, or residential properties? Right now, we're already pretty high - NO**

- a. Do you support increasing water, sewer, or electric fees?

No, not right now.

**Gerald Rocha – District 1, Incumbent**

**1. What is your number one objective as a returning or new City Councilperson?**

My #1 objective is an environmental issue that we have related to the Riverwalk Project. We're working on some contamination issues created by an old sewer plant/dump – I believe that we can overcome these obstacles. Why should we leave nature's land in a state where it cannot be used? It's a hot spot and DENREC is aware. It's estimated to take about \$5 million to correct the issue. The city's budget can't fix it, but perhaps the state can help. Once it's remediated, another council person will take over from there. My idea for use would be to use the area for partial economic development and part natural habitat.



**Gerald Rocha**

**2. Do you believe the City Manager form of Government serves the City of Dover well?**

- a. Specifically, do you think the City's Charter should be changed to empower the Mayor with more duties beyond the police department?

From a sense of balance standpoint, it might not be a good idea to change the structure. I've heard people say that things need to change but I haven't been part of those conversations and haven't been privy to the reasons. I'd need to hear the facts before I could decide.

**3. Do you support the efforts of the Downtown Dover Partnership, specifically in the revitalization of Dover's downtown area?**

YES, I've been to other places and compare them to what we have and where we are... Alexandria, Providence, Boston. I've seen what revitalization can do – and I like that. I want to see that happen here. Is it going to solve every problem? It'll do what the developers say by putting more feet and eyes on the ground in that area.

- What do you value about the uniqueness of Downtown Dover?

Dover's downtown area is beautiful, aesthetically pleasing. It is very easy to walk straight up and down, and it's not too long a walk to cover the city. We need to put things in there that will be attractive – there must be balance. There needs to be a strategy about what kind of businesses we want. There needs to be some thought about education as well.

All the pieces are starting to come into place – patience is a virtue – as we evolve and educate and manifest this plan and work cohesively together. The hook is going to be the destination itself because everything else is already there. We just need to revitalize and build it up. I am looking forward to that.

- What do you think Dover needs to do to attract additional employers?

What I think we could probably do... address public safety, of course. I also think we could maybe provide some incentives. We need to look at our ordinances, see what's possible, and take responsibility for some ideas. It's easy for us to pass an idea and pass it off to the folks who are responsible for doing it, but the city doesn't really have the bandwidth to add duties and so nothing gets done. What are other municipalities doing? Let's compare and make sure our approach is the right one for us.

**4. Now that an ordinance has been passed in the City of Dover to allow the retail sale of marijuana along the Rt. 13 corridor, would you support expanding that area to include the retail sale of marijuana in the downtown area?**

NO. I'm looking at the downtown area as a family-oriented destination. I would have been open-minded about that whole issue if we had not reduced the buffer zones (distancing from certain agencies, etc.) from 1 mile down to 500 feet.

**5. In your opinion, what is the answer to the rapidly growing homeless population in the City of Dover?**

I steered the unsheltered working group. You have homeless people who work, but don't have a place to live – we can probably do something to help those folks; we can support the agencies who provide that support to help them get back on their feet. Then, you have another group with mental health and substance abuse issues – that's more challenging. Even if the help is available, they may not take advantage of that. The police department is going to have to be a more community-minded organization to give them the lift they need to make the decisions we want them to make.

- a. Do you believe there is a public safety issue in Dover?

b. What needs to be done about panhandling, vagrancy, trespassing, marijuana consumption in public spaces, etc.?

- c. Related to this – do you think Dover should provide more services for these individuals?

No – I don't think the city CAN do that. I think the state should do that. We would have to hire professionals to do that. The state already has the infra-

structure – it just needs to be expanded. We need to develop a better relationship with the state and city housing authorities.

#### 6. What is your stance on the following City issues:

- a. Mandatory installation of back flow preventers  
We put a pause on that. Even as a homeowner (and the businesses), how do we know if we need to change that, what's the need, what are they looking for. There's got to be some way of sharing whose homes/businesses might

need it. The ownness should not be on the homeowners.

- b. The stormwater utility fee  
I do agree with it being its own utility and managing itself. What I don't agree with is the formula that was created – I think it should be a flat rate. We do need more revenue, and we need to figure out how to get more revenue coming in. Because of some fees that we are required to pay, we'll need to find a way to pay for them.
- c. Shopping cart ordinance fee  
Who's going to pay for it? I don't think it's fair because it's not the fault of the

businesses that their stolen carts are being taken off property and littering the streets and other areas.

#### 7. Within the next fiscal year, would you support raising taxes or fees on the business community, or residential properties?

- a. Do you support increasing water, sewer, or electric fees?  
Something's going to go up. The standard has been "we're not raising taxes" because it is believed that our tax base couldn't pay for it. We try to keep our tax rates low. If we wait too long

in between raises, the amount of the raise will be higher. There needs to be a balance.

We're going to fight raising taxes- if we could streamline some stuff on the budget, we might be able to produce some revenue. We'll try to keep any raise as low as possible if we have to do it. Taxes won't be the first thing we touch... the city manager tries to find areas in the budget where revenue can be saved for another purpose.



## City of Dover municipal elections Tuesday, April 15, 2025 • 7 a.m. – 8 p.m. Polling places to be announced.

For more info: [www.cityofdover.com/regular-municipal-elections](http://www.cityofdover.com/regular-municipal-elections)

### MINI MASTERS MIXER

Continued from Page 1

putt-putt version of the famous golf classic, in which teams of four will compete on Tre Sorelle's 18-hole mini golf course. Member businesses are invited to sponsor holes and send teams. Individuals may team up with other players to form teams of four as well. Prizes will be awarded in several categories, and the overall tournament winner will receive the coveted Chamber BLUE jacket... and, of course... maximum bragging rights!

All 18 teams will tee off and make their way around the miniature golf course. They will receive snacks and drinks along the way, and golfers may try their hand at skipping the golf ball on one of the water features. They will also be able to purchase chances in the ball drop and mulligans to use along the way to add to the competitive fun of the tournament. Again, this year, the CDCC will offer a 2nd round of play to allow more teams to partic-



ipate (by popular demand). This event will, in every way, be our own version of the famous Masters Tournament... in miniature. But don't let the name fool you. There will be nothing "Mini" about this masterful golf mashup.

THE CDCC Mini Masters Mixer is not only a fun-filled evening, but also a fantastic networking opportunity for local businesses. Don't miss this chance to showcase your company. We are sure that your team of four will make a lasting impression and start conversations as people notice your creatively coordinated costumes! There is a prize for the team with the best costumes, so come dressed to impress and have fun with it.

Don't forget that this is also a Sunset Business Mixer – the premier networking

event of the CDCC. Attendees can expect regular CDCC mixer-style activities such as amazing networking opportunities, 50/50 cash raffle, door prizes, and important CDCC announcements. The CDCC's Mixers are the number one consistent way to meet new like-minded businesspeople, connect with your local community, and have fun while doing it!

In addition to all the impressive CDCC Mixer happenings there will be food trucks, beverages, yard games, cornhole, music, and ice cream to enjoy whether you are a spectator cheering from the sidelines or a player making your way through the golf course. There is no fee to be a spectator and enjoy the rest of the event. Note that the CDCC made the smart move to putt this tournament from April to May and take advantage of that month's warmer, dryer weather.

Thank you to owners Mike and Becky Marasco for welcoming the CDCC community into their facility for fun to be had and

memories to be made – we couldn't do it without them!

The CDCC is now seeking sponsors for the Mini Masters Mixer, and there are lots of opportunities to choose from including everything from "Tournament Sponsors" to "Hole Sponsors" that include a foursome, plus sponsorships for awards, beverages, snacks and more. For more information on sponsorship opportunities to proudly showcase your business, contact Cindy today by emailing her at [cfriese@cdcc.net](mailto:cfriese@cdcc.net).

*For more information about THE CDCC's 2025 Mini Masters Mixer and to register your team of four to play or register for the Sunset Business Mixer, please visit [www.cdcc.net/events/chamber-events](http://www.cdcc.net/events/chamber-events) or give the office a call at (302)734-7513. The CDCC is so excited to see your competitive faces and A-game on the green or cheering from the sidelines at Tre Sorelle Dolce Ice Cream & Mini Golf on Wednesday, May 28th from 4 – 7 p.m.*

### TEE OFF

Continued from Page 1

This full-sized golf tournament event has done an incredible job for 20 years of fostering the relationship between our civilian community and Dover Air Force Base. The CDCC is proud to bring this event to its members because of the fun and fellowship that resonates long after every team finishes the course. We anticipate that with YOUR continued support and participation, this year will be even better than the very successful tournaments of past years.

This partnership Golf Tournament pairs two civilians with two DAFB airmen to form teams of four, exemplifying TEAM Dover! Now is the time to begin reaching out to prospective teammates who you think have the winning swing – or someone you'd like to get to know better or someone you'd like to



join you for a fun golf outing. The Bluesuiters Golf Tournament is an amazing way to build camaraderie, meet new people, and learn about the DAFB mission and the service men and women who carry it out. This golf tournament is open to golfers of all skill levels – the CDCC does not judge your par score (but your team might!).

Golfers and spectators can look forward to pre-game time on the driving range. The meticulously maintained greens and fairways provide an ideal setting for participants to engage in friendly competition and enjoy the beauty of Central Delaware's landscape at Jonathan's Landing – whose staff does a

wonderful job of accommodating our guests from shotgun start to dinner.

Although the CDCC understands there can only be one winning scorecard, everyone is a winner in our hearts at this special event. Each golfer will receive an opportunity to win a unique door prize, and enjoy a goody bag, delicious snacks, and beverages. Once everyone has completed the course, all golfers are invited to enjoy dinner in Jonathan's Landing Clubhouse, where the winning team will be announced and awarded their prizes!

Special thanks go out to Tournament Sponsor - Wilmington University, Golf Ball Drop Sponsor - Burke Equipment Co., Driving Range Sponsor - Dover Federal Credit Union, Freedom Sponsor – First Command, Golf Cart Sponsor - Independent Metal Strap Co., Inc., Hole-in-One Sponsor - Tidewater Utilities, Inc., Beverage Sponsors

– NKS Distributors, Inc. and Pepsi Bottling Ventures, and Snack Station Sponsors – Bally's Dover Casino Resort and YMCA Dover.

The tournament cost is \$90 per golfer. Please consider thanking a Dover Air Force Base airman for their service by sponsoring their golf for the price of \$90 as well. This kind gesture goes a long way to show your gratitude.

*If you would like to participate in the tournament by golfing, sponsoring, or donating a door prize (great ways to showcase your business) please contact Cristal at the CDCC office at 302-734-7513 or [cbreneman@cdcc.net](mailto:cbreneman@cdcc.net). The CDCC is excited to have you join us on May 28th to see TEAM Dover Tee Up at Jonathan's Landing. Check-in time is 10 a.m. followed by a shotgun start at 11 a.m.*

## Member News

# Bringing Sparkle to Their Customers for 75 Years

When you ask Ron, Ellen Sayers and their son Tom, owners of Sayers Jewelers & Gemologists in Smyrna, the secret of staying in business for 75 years, the answer easily comes to them. "It's the people," they all 3 agree. "We are so grateful to our loyal customers, some of whom have been doing business with us for 75 years. Some of them are in their 90s now," Ron shared.

Ron's parents, Leroy and June Sayers, relocated from Somerset, PA to Smyrna to open a jewelry business. Leroy had learned the art of jewelry and watch repair and was looking for the perfect place that needed his specialized service. On August 4, 1950, Sayers opened their business in a storefront on Main Street that at one time had been the Smyrna Town Hall.

Shortly after completing college, Ron joined the family business. He specializes in building custom jewelry to suit his customers' ideas for a unique piece to celebrate a special occasion or just bringing joy to a loved one every time they wear these personal pieces. Tom emphasized this by saying, "Ninety-five percent of the pieces that we sell are for celebratory moments."

Designing custom pieces requires a creative eye, training, and skill. Ron is a proud graduate of the Gemological Institute of America (GIA) where he earned the distinction of "graduate gemologist." He has fashioned gold into a variety of items based on requests over the years: miniature Delaware license tags, fishhooks, a pepperoni pizza, and more. He even created a replica of Ellen's father's fishing boat.

The "people" who have brought success to Sayers Jewelers & Gemologists don't stop at customers. Their staff of 13 service focused, dedicated, and skilled team members all contribute to the customers returning time and time again to purchase unique jewelry that is more than an investment. They all understand it's something to be cherished and passed down for generations to come. Some of their staff members have been part of the Sayers team for more than 30 years and many more for at least 20 years. Ron points out that it's unusual to have long-time employees in the retail sector. "We are fortunate to have such a dedicated staff who provide outstanding customer service."

In December, Ron and Ellen hosted a Christmas party at the Smyrna Opera House with live music, dancing, and food to celebrate all the staff who have worked

at Sayers Jewelers & Gemologists during their 75 years in business. They had more than 70 staff members attend, and they ranged in age from 19 to 93 years old. Ellen smiled and shared that it was quite a party with everyone on the dance floor late into the evening.

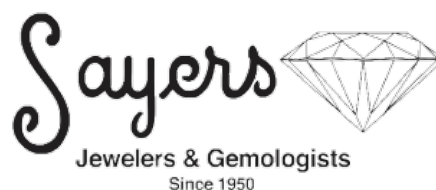
Also included with the success-driven "people" are the next generations of Sayers. Tom, a third generation Sayers, has been with the jewelry store for 30 years. He is also a graduate of the Gemological Institute of America. Tom joked, "My parents had me so they could retire." This can't be true, since although they work just part time, Ron and Ellen make regular stops in the store to see customers and help at especially busy times, like the Christmas holiday season.

In addition to Tom, fourth-generation Sayers, Jessica and Amber both work in the store. Jessica started in 2021 and is now a GIA Applied Jewelry Professional. She enjoys working with the public. "I love seeing different generations come in to shop. Their grandmother's engagement ring was purchased from Ron, their mother's ring was purchased from Tom, and now I'm helping them with their purchase," Jessica shared.

In addition to the relationship they share with their customers, the Sayers have found their customers' consistent fondness of classic jewelry has also made the Main Street store a regular stop for gift shopping. "People still love diamonds, pearls, signet rings, charm bracelets, add-a-link bracelets, and even scarab jewelry remains popular," both Ron and Ellen pointed out.

Technological changes have been beneficial for business, too. With their state-of-the-art CAD/CAM (computer-aided design and modeling), high-tech laser welders, and expert staff, Sayers continues to design and create finely crafted, custom jewelry. From their initial conversations with customers, to designing the jewelry, to pouring the gold, choosing the stones and placing them in just the right spot, they have demonstrated meticulous care and focused precision in their work for seven and a half decades and four generations.

*Please join the Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce to congratulate Sayers Jewelers & Gemologists on their 75th anniversary and in wishing them all the best in the years to come!*



# Member News

## Air Mobility Command Museum Takes Flight with Spring Events

The Air Mobility Command (AMC) Museum has prepared an exceptional schedule of events for this spring to give the public a chance to explore the museum and its impressive exhibits and learn something new about the history of the US Air Force airlift and air refueling history. Did you say, “What is the AMC Museum?” Well...It’s one of Delaware’s “must see” spots! Plus, if you live in Kent County, you had better visit there to see the amazing collection of more than 30 aircraft varying in roles and sizes and exhibits that tell the story of humanitarian and airlift and air refueling history, or you really will miss out! In addition to the collection of aircraft, they offer regular events, guest speakers, guided tours, flight simulators, tours of the flight control tower, a peaceful visit to the 9/11 Commemoration Park, and so much more.

This spring, the Open Cockpit Days are starting back on Saturday, April 19th. This event is repeated every third Saturday of the month through October. Open Cockpit Day provides the public with full access to many of the museum’s aircraft from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. if weather permits and tour guides are available. Tour guides are stationed in the open aircraft to describe the history of the planes and their missions. They are often retired crew members of these airplanes, so their descriptions are from personal experience and bring the aircraft to life for visitors.

The AMC team has also put together an expansive schedule of free events for the spring season including a World War II Encampment and their “Hangar Talks,” which feature an expert guest speakers and special exhibits.



### Hangar Talk: “Passing Gas” April 19th, 11 a.m.

Lieutenant Colonel Mark Hasara is a retired Air Force KC-135 instructor pilot and veteran of four wars. Mark was Deputy Commander of a team tasked to build the Air Force’s TOP GUN-style school for the KC-135 fleet, the world’s only PhD-level course on air refueling operations. Eight days after 9/11, Mark began a series of five deployments to the Middle East, planning and executing air refueling operations for all six coalition nations as Chief Operating Officer of the Air Refueling Control Team. Air Mobility Command awarded him Tanker Tactician of the Year 2002 for his tactics and planning work. Leaving the Air Force in 2007, Mark led a Systems Engineering team designing cockpits for military aircraft without an engineering degree! In 2017, his book Tanker Pilot: Lessons from the Cockpit, was published by Simon & Schuster. Mark began hosting the Lessons from the Cockpit show in October 2021, educating and entertaining his audience with flying stories but more importantly what aviators learned from those extreme and extraordinary events in the air.

### Hangar Talk: American World War II aviator Hazel Ying Lee May 4th, 1 p.m.

Composer and writer, Derrick Wang will speak about the musical drama “Fearless” inspired by the incredible true story of trailblazing American World War II aviator Hazel Ying Lee. Born in the United States and coming of age during the Great Depression, Hazel was one of only two Chinese Americans who overcame barriers at home and abroad to become leading members of the Women Airforce Service Pilots—setting an inspiring example for her peers, for her family, and for generations of pilots to come. Fearless tells a story of courage, service, and sacrifice against the domestic and global upheavals of WWII. Through this refreshing, accessible work



that advances the traditional repertoire of both opera and musical theater, audiences will be uplifted in this epic tale of America’s overlooked heroes—unsung until now. The World Premiere productions of Fearless will be presented by Opera Delaware on May 16 (7:30PM) & 18 (2:00PM), 2025 in Wilmington, Delaware

### WWII Encampment

#### May 17th and 18th, 10 a.m.- 3p.m.

Individuals and groups from across Delmarva representing units of the US Army, Air Forces and Women’s services will converge on Dover AFB to celebrate the proud heritage of the U.S. military during WWII. The encampment area will consist of period vehicles, squad tents, historical displays and the equipment of airmen and the ground troops they supported. All reenactors will be representing a unit that is related to an aircraft or exhibit at the AMC Museum, with the intention of bringing history to life through that personal connection. Visitors will get the chance to interact with exhibits, watch demonstrations presented by reenactors, have their photos taken in period vehicles and receive a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the history of their United States armed forces, particularly the Air Force. The encampment coincides with the AMCM Open Cockpit Day on 17 May so that visitors have the best opportunity to explore the museum’s aircraft. All to create the best possible immersive and fun experience for the guests of the AMC Museum.

### Hangar Talk: Mildred Rice - Women Army Corps (WACS) May 24th, 1 p.m.

On May 30, 1945, a C-47B Skytrain transport aircraft (serial number 44-76406) with three crew members, carrying eighteen members of the Women’s Army Corps (WACS) to a new duty station, took off from Accra, British West Africa, enroute to Roberts Field, Liberia. Radio contact was made over the first checkpoint at Takoradi on the Gold Coast. Approximately an hour and a half later, personnel at Roberts Field received a radio distress signal from the aircraft. The C-47 never reached Roberts Field and was not heard

from or seen again. Extensive search and rescue efforts were conducted but no crash site and no remains were ever found. Born in 1914, Private First-Class Mildred E. Higgins Rice, who joined the U.S. Army from Kansas in 1944, served as a member of the Women’s Army Corps and was assigned to the 1202nd Army Air Force Base Unit, Air Transport Command. She was a passenger aboard the C-47 when it crashed, and her remains were not recovered. Today, Private First Class Rice is memorialized on the Walls of the Missing at the North Africa American Cemetery in Tunisia, Tunisia.

### Colonel Paris Davis US Army Retired - Medal of Honor Recipient June 21st, 1 p.m.

Col. Paris D. Davis was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Joseph Biden in a March 2023 White House ceremony for his actions in 1965 as a Special Forces captain in Binh Dinh Province, South Vietnam. In his remarks, Biden said of Davis, “You are everything our nation is at our best: brave and big hearted, determined and devoted, selfless and steadfast. American. American.” On 18 June 1965, Davis and three other Special Forces soldiers led an inexperienced South Vietnamese company on a nighttime raid against a larger force, killing an estimated one hundred Viet Cong. Davis was wounded in the initial assault but continued to fight. The enemy then counterattacked, and he found himself engaged in what was to be a nineteen-hour battle. Davis was wounded several more times by small arms fire and grenade fragments during the fight but continued to engage the enemy directly with small arms and mortar fire, indirectly by calling in air and artillery fire, and at times, even in hand-to-hand combat. He personally rescued two seriously wounded soldiers and directed their medical evacuation. Davis refused medical care for his own wounds until the enemy force was destroyed and all his soldiers were evacuated.

The AMC Museum is located at 1301 Heritage Rd, Dover AFB, DE with access through the Museum’s main entrance on Route 9. Admission and parking are both free! They are open to the public on Wednesday through Sunday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., but are closed on all Federal Holidays except Veterans Day. *For more information, visit them online at <https://amcmuseum.org/>. Plan your visit now to the museum that thousands of people from across the globe already have experienced and know them as a world-class museum.*



# Member News



## DSU and Industry Leaders Partner for “Develop The Hive Week”

Don't describe “Develop The Hive Week” as an event. It was more than that. The Delaware State University (DSU) Office of Career Services described it as “a collaborative effort to nurture the next generation of professionals while building enduring connections between our students and esteemed organizations [whose involvement helped produce this immersive week].”

This transformative initiative kicked off on Sunday, March 16th with the “Ready To Lead Women’s Brunch” sponsored by Bank of America. This event featured panel discussions with Bank of America female executives and other successful women from diverse industries who talked about influence, decision making, first impressions and leadership skills.

In addition, there were networking options, mentorship opportunities, workshops and brunch. Event organizer Dontia Brown, Bank of America VP of Enterprise Campus Strategy – Delaware State Relationship Manager noted, “The student engagement was great for this event. There were lots of connections made and the panels offered inspiring discussions and insights into career advancement.”

Day two of the week offered the “Future Forward: STEM and Health Pathways Expo” which connected students with potential employers and internship opportunities in the high-demand fields of STEM and Pre-Health. This more traditional “career expo” focused on the students from the College of Agriculture, Science,

Technology, and Wesley College of Health and Behavioral Sciences. The students in attendance gained valuable connections and resources from close to 20 participating businesses and organizations to support their career development.

Tuesday and Thursday of the “Develop The Hive Week” focused on peer-to-peer mentoring with the “Resource Power Hour” conversations. Tuesday evening’s topic focused on scholarships and was led by Career Services Interns Ranyah Bullock and Lebene Ashinyo. They assisted attendees with finding applications, shared tips and tricks to help their applications stand out and make sure they have what they need to apply. Ranyah spent 11 months working on her own applications and secured \$80,000 in scholarships for her education. In addition, she has branded a posting resource on social media called “Next Level Execution” to help students graduate debt free.

Thursday’s topic was internships and fellowships, and was led by another Career Services Intern, Brandon Poplar. Brandon’s mentoring included working on an “elevator pitch,” resumes and LinkedIn. He shared that his networking at career expos is what led to some key internship positions for him, and then eventually to being awarded a SIEMML scholarship for a full ride to either UC Berkley or UCLA. Anyone would agree that mentoring from these interns was an invaluable opportunity for students applying for these resources or participating in the fellowship programs to get an in-depth

look at how to make these a successful part of future career plans.

The week of development programs kicked it up a notch on Wednesday with the National Urban League B.E.E.P. (Business Executive Exchange Program) Immersion Day. This dynamic event was aimed at empowering the DSU College of Business students to envision and achieve their future goals with confidence. The National Urban League hosted a group of corporate leaders to engage with the students for mentoring, professional development, and workforce insights. The participants gained practical strategies for navigating their careers, fostering leadership skills, and building networks essential for success in the professional world. More than a dozen businesses participated in the B.E.E.P. Immersion Day.

For Friday, the DSU Office of Career Sciences decided instead of slowing things down at the end of the week, to kick it up another notch with the “C.H.E.S.S. Not Checkers Live Expo & Go.” This high-energy event, tailored to the DSU College of Humanities, Education and Social Sciences (C.H.E.S.S.) students, aimed to celebrate the college’s creativity and career readiness while also providing a valuable networking experience. The “Live Expo & Go” featured an MVP showcase, including a fashion show, live mainstage presentations and two panel discussions - one on the future of media, and the second on driving policy and progress, plus there was interactive programming tailored to the mass communications, visual, and

performing arts students. More than 20 organizations participating with an exhibit booth offered an interactive component to enhance the experience for the students.

Terry Bankston, Executive Director of the Office of Career Services, applauded his entire team for putting together this amazing week-long collaborative effort. “I want to publicly recognize the current staff and student interns that I have pushed and challenged to conceive, create, execute, and complete past their imaginations and comfort zones,” Terry enthusiastically shared. “They have challenged me and made me not only think outside the box but cut my ‘Baby Boomer’ box wide open and create a mutually agreed upon new and inclusive box of old school ethics/values and today’s culture around Career Pathways!” Every day was filled with energy and new opportunities for DSU students to gather support and resources for their career development.

Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce members who participated in this week-long event included Bally’s Dover Casino Resort, Bayhealth, Braven, Delaware Department of Labor, iHeart Media, M&T Bank, State of Delaware, University of Delaware and WSFS Bank.

*Local businesses interested in participating in the upcoming early October career development event and the 2026 “Develop The Hive Week” should contact Terry at 302-857-6125 or [tbankston@desu.edu](mailto:tbankston@desu.edu)*



# Join Us For A Day of Learning, Connecting, Support and Fun!



An Event for Seniors... Soon-To-Be Seniors... and Their Caregivers!

Wednesday, April 16, 2025  
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Bally's Dover Casino Resort

## WHAT TO EXPECT

- FREE Admission*
- FREE Parking*
- Variety of Vendors*
- Live Entertainment*
- Wellness Center*
- Special Programs*
- FREE Health Screenings*
- Giveaways & Door Prizes*
- Caregiver's Support Resources*

Presented by:



Wellness Center  
Gold Sponsor:



Event Sponsor:



Media Sponsor:



Silver Sponsors:



For more info, call the CDCC office at 302-734-7513 or visit [www.cdcc.net](http://www.cdcc.net)





## VENDORS

Booth #	
16	A-FAB Property Professionals
83	Bally's Dover Casino Resort
36	Basement Waterproofing Specialists
6	Bay Terrace Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center / Evergreen Post Acute
4	Bayhealth
11	Brandywine Hearing Center featuring Beltone
34	Brookdale
82	Bryan Realty Group
50	Caesar Rodney School
43	Cardiology Physicians
59 & 60	Care First Dental Team - Robert R. Coope, DDS
62	Castle The Window People
27	Christiana Care Heart and Vascular
14	ClearCaptions
35	Clearway Pain Solutions
24	Coastal Bath Company
54	Community Powered FCU
56	Connolly Dermatology
15	Coral Health
72	Delaware Department of Insurance (Delaware Medicare Assistance Bureau)
69	Delaware Department of Justice - Consumer Protection
23	Delaware Exteriors LLC
81	Delaware Health and Social Services - Division of Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities (DSAAPD)
37	Delaware Hospice
42	Delaware Imaging Network
38	Delaware Senior Medicare Patrol (DE SMP)
58	Delaware State Housing Authority
71	Dover Federal Credit Union
64	Dover Pools
1	Dover Post
76	Dover YMCA
77	Doyle Law, LLC
49	Easterseals

Booth #	
22	Eye Specialists of Delaware
29	FCCB - First Citizens Community Bank
39	G. Fedale
44	Garner Group Financial, LLC
21	GoGlass Joy LLC
45	Help at Home
40	Highmark Delaware
84	Ingleside Homes Inc.
74	Kent County Levy Court - Kent County Recorder of Deeds Kent County Department of Public Safety
17	Kent County Levy Court - Kent County Sheriff's Office & Kent County Register of Wills
65	Kent County Master Gardeners
61	Law Office of Karen Y. Vicks, LLC
18	LeafFilter Gutter Protection
46	LeafGuard
13	Lean On Me Caregiving
52	Modern Maturity Center
30	Mosquito Shield of Southern Delaware
19 & 20	NextHome Preferred
8	PACE Your LIFE
9	PAM Rehabilitation Hospital of Dover
70	Pinnacle Concrete Coatings LLC
75	Renewal by Andersen
68	Royal Prime Events
47	Silver Lining Home HealthCare
26	Smyrna Opera House
55	Spicer Bros Construction, Inc.
12	TidalHealth Lifeline
10	University of Delaware - Delaware Assistive Technology Initiative (DATI)
51	WeCare Services
32	Wellcare
53	Westminster Village



## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**9 a.m. – 3 p.m.** - Exhibit Area opens in the ballroom.

The **Wellness Center**, sponsored by **Bayhealth Medical Center**, can be found in the hallway outside the ballroom. Information and health assessments including cancer screening education, stroke awareness, respiratory, palliative care, pet therapy, and more will be available. Free health screenings include blood pressure, non-invasive carpal tunnel screening, sleep apnea, and others. Stop by to learn more up-to-date information to help you improve your health and well-being!

Throughout the Rollins Center some exhibitors will display a **Caregiver's Support Exhibitor** sign. Visit them for the tools and resources you need to take care of your loved ones including information and guidance on how to handle stress and solve common problems that caregivers face when providing for those in their lives that need extra help.

**Starting at 9 a.m. while supplies last** - Visit **The Master Gardeners** in the Rollins Center. They will be giving away tomato plants!

**1 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.**

Get your groove on! Join Kyle from **Dover YMCA** by the stage in the Rollins Center for a fun, low-impact Zumba class perfect for 55+. Enjoy upbeat music, easy-to-follow moves, and a friendly atmosphere. Feel energized and leave with a smile!

**1:30 p.m. – 2 p.m.**

**Steppin' Seniors of the Modern Maturity Center** will perform several dance routines on the stage in the Rollins Center. They are the unofficial ambassadors for the Modern Maturity Center in Dover and promote line dancing as a fun way to stay active and healthy. Their repertoire includes 100+ pieces of music with a different dance for each.

# Special Feature

## Legislators and Business Leaders Meet and Build Bonds



On Wednesday, March 19th the Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce (CDCC) hosted their annual lunch for Central Delaware's business leaders and legislators. The 23rd Annual Legislative Luncheon was held in the Rollins Center at Bally's Dover Casino Resort. The event included a networking opportunity with table-top displays from local businesses and organizations, followed by a buffet lunch, and then the much-anticipated Q&A session with the legislators.

The purpose of this event was to offer an informal opportunity for citizens of Central Delaware and legislators to engage in an open dialogue focused on current business topics. The CDCC community took advantage of the opportunity to mingle and build relationships as they met new people and caught up with familiar faces before each table was called to the impressive buffet line. The event included a tasty lunch menu to provide brain fuel for the discussions to come.

Senators and representatives comprised a panel on the stage. Seated guests were provided programs with brief overviews of the legislative bills at hand that had great potential to affect their businesses. The panel of legislators began the dialogue by introducing themselves. The members of the CDCC's Legislative Affairs committee were then invited to the mic with their questions regarding the bills in progress.

The room engaged in discussion on topics selected by the Chamber's Legislative Affairs Committee that included: Senate Bill 21 (relating to the General Corporation Law), rising utility rates, and possible changes to the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA). In addition, through a random drawing two attendees of the event were handed the microphone to each pose a business-related question to the legislators. This was something new the Chamber offered in response to several requests from the membership.

John Rice, Community Executive Director from the Dover YMCA posed a question about childcare concerns during the summer months. Next, the mic was passed to Adam Kramer, Executive Director/Coach from Green Project, who also raised a question about the struggles our community is having caring for children.

Our panel of legislators shared their views on each of the questions, gave

reasoning and evidence to back their stances, and the audience received their presentations with open ears. The CDCC is sure that this event has left much to mull over and will encourage our local business leaders to remain vigilant, engaged, and optimistic for the future of our state and its residents. The CDCC's goal is to orchestrate a welcoming space for open dialogue that benefits the business community, and thanks to all who attended, this goal was accomplished.

The CDCC would like to thank all in attendance at the 2025 Legislative Luncheon. Thank you to our Signature Sponsor, B.I.G. Investment Services, for supporting this event. Thank you to our Cornerstone Platinum Sponsors: B.I.G. Investment Services, Century Engineering – A Kleinfelder Company, Chesapeake Utilities, Daily State News, Dover Federal Credit Union, G. Fedale, Harrington Raceway & Casino, KraftHeinz Company, PAM Rehabilitation Hospital of Dover, Pratt Insurance Inc., R&R Commercial Realty and Residence Inn by Marriott.

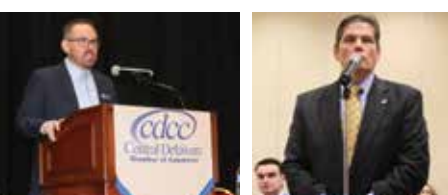
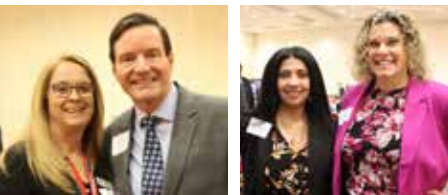
A continuing thank you to all our General Assembly sponsors: Allen Insurance Group, BBSI, C.S. Kidner Associates/Capitol Strategies, Comcast, Delaware Municipal Electric Corporation, Delmarva Power - an Exelon Company, Dover Motor Speedway, Dowding Resource Group, George & Lynch, Pepsi Bottling Ventures, Shore United Bank, The Malmberg Firm, LLC, The Willis Group, LLC, and Wilmington University.

We also send a thank you to our Kent County Representatives and Senators: Sen. Eric Buckson, Rep. William Carson, Sen. Dave Lawson, Rep. Jeff Spiegelman, Sen. Trey Paradee and Rep. Lyndon Yearick for their time and expertise.

The CDCC also extends a thank you to Bally's Dover Casino Resort for hosting this luncheon in their beautiful Rollins Center, and thank you to Royal Prime Catering for preparing the delicious lunch.

Thanks to everyone involved in making this event productive and successful — the Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce could not do it without you! Together we will continue to make Central Delaware THE place to live, work, and play!

**BIG**  
INVESTMENT SERVICES



# Special Feature

## Home & Garden Expo Hosted by Dover Motor Speedway



The CDCC held its 2025 Home & Garden Expo on February 28th and March 1st at the NASCAR Cup Series Garage at Dover Motor Speedway. Sunshine and typical Delmarva winds greeted the various 30+ vendors from across the industry, from roofing and gutters to pools and real estate.

This venue was a new spot for the annual Home & Garden Expo, and it allowed attendees to enjoy some super cool, selfie-worthy stops as they made their way to the Expo entrance. Many stopped at the 46-foot-tall Miles the Monster statue and Victory Lane to snap a pic. And everyone, NASCAR fan or not, found it thrilling to drive across the "Monster Mile" track on their way into the venue.

The CDCC welcomed hundreds of new and familiar faces from the community to see, learn and engage with local business experts. Guests walked away with great ideas, new information and the tools needed to begin creating the living spaces of their dreams!

The visitors to the Home & Garden Expo also learned something new by attending entertaining and informative seminars and demonstrations presented by Kent County Master Gardeners, Pampered Chef Independent Consultant Dawn Curtiss and Bright Side Roofing. The topics included tips for preparing your garden for spring, demonstrations of tools for food prep, and a detailed presentation on combined roofing and renewable energy. Audience members were able to ask questions and receive helpful, knowledgeable answers. Some even sampled Pampered Chef-prepared sweet potato apple soup and walked away with planted seeds to kick start their garden.

The engaged Expo guests enjoyed their time chatting with each of the vendors, entering to win door prizes, and filling their tote bags, provided by CertaPro Painters of Delaware, with fun and unique swag from the various vendors including lip balm, tech-friendly fleece gloves, ballcaps, French bulldog-shaped key rings, breath mints, beach balls, and more. Thank you to everyone who stopped by for taking the time out of your busy schedule to attend this event.

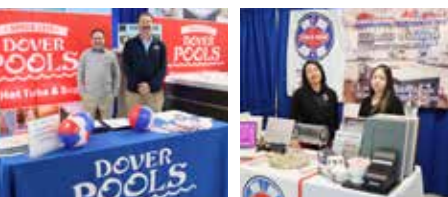
The CDCC is always happy to offer the opportunity for positive, face-to-face engagements between businesses and potential customers. We know the Expo vendors created valuable relationships with not only attendees, but also their business peers. Networking is always a great bonus at these types of events.

The 2025 Home & Garden Expo would not have been possible without the help of our generous sponsors - Show Sponsor: Bright Side; Supporting Sponsors: Coastal Bath Co., G. Fedale, and Division of Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities; and Official Media Sponsor: Daily State News. The CDCC thanks you for supporting this free event to showcase the best of Central Delaware and the surrounding area to the local community!

We'd like to express a special thank you to Travelin' Toms Coffee of Dover and White and Associates Treats for providing delicious, curated beverages and tasty food from their food trucks for the Expo's guests.

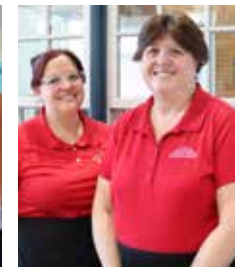
Then, coming across the finish line first is the team at Dover Motor Speedway for their amazing job hosting this year's Home & Garden Expo. They were very accommodating and helpful in so many ways. We truly appreciate their support!

We hope that everyone will make time to join us at some other upcoming events this spring including the 55 Plus Expo on Wednesday, April 16th at Bally's Dover Casino Resort and The Chamber's Mini Masters Mixer on Wednesday, May 28th at Tre Sorelle Dolce Ice Cream & Mini Golf. For more information on CDCC events, please call our office at 302-734-7513 or check them out online at [www.cdcc.net/events/chamber-events](http://www.cdcc.net/events/chamber-events).



# Special Feature

# CDCC Returns to Museum for March Mixer



The members and guests of the Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce (CDCC) came together on Wednesday, March 26th for an evening of networking and celebrating at the Delaware State Police Museum in Dover for the CDCC's monthly Sunset Business Mixer.

The Museum hosted the CDCC's Military Affaire in early February, and we were thrilled to return to this outstanding venue just over a month later. Once again, the wonderful team at the Delaware State Police Museum was stellar hosts for the CDCC and our guests at this unique museum dedicated to the preservation of proud history of the Delaware State Police.

This Sunset Business Mixer provided ample opportunities for attendees to network and collaborate. Business cards were swapped, new connections were made, conversations flowed freely as attendees discussed business, shared knowledge, and explored partnerships. In our busy working lives, free time can be hard to come by, so the CDCC doesn't take it lightly that you took the time to spend your time with us to grow Central Delaware, build upon a strong community, and network with like-minded individuals.

Congratulations to our door prize winners, 50/50 winner, and Mike Stypinski of Excel Business Technologies for winning Member of the Month! Stay tuned for the May Chamber Connections issue to read his feature!

Thank you again to our friends at the Delaware State Police Museum for accommodating us this month to facilitate the growth, relationships, partnerships and networking built at these events. We hope that you'll plan a return visit to the museum to learn more about law enforcement methods, substance abuse prevention, highway safety efforts, and a wide variety of other interesting topics. They are located at 1425 N. DuPont Highway, Dover and are open to the public Tuesday – Saturday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. except State and Federal holidays.

Remember – CDCC Sunset Business Mixers are a FREE member benefit, and all your company employees are welcome to attend! Share the news and invite them to represent your company if you can't make it that night...or even if you can!

We hope you had a wonderful evening mixing with your community. To register for the April Sunset Business Mixer, visit "Chamber Events" at [www.cdcc.net](http://www.cdcc.net) or call (302)734-7513 to join the fun!



# Ribbon Cuttings

## CDCC Joins Meineke Car Care of Smyrna for a Ribbon Cutting

SMYRNA, DE - The Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce (CDCC) hosted a Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony for Meineke Car Care on Tuesday, March 25th at their new Smyrna location at 5700 Dupont Parkway. Chamber members, and friends joined the owners, Mike and Jennifer Keeley for light refreshments and take-away gifts to celebrate the opening of this new business.

Meineke Smyrna's mission is to provide complete auto repair services and maintenance while building ongoing and trusting customer relationships. Owner Jennifer Keeley explained, "We want to provide a clean, comfortable environment, with a friendly, professional staff, and a center fully equipped to provide all the products and services on the Meineke menu."



Their new location offers a wide range of preventative maintenance and car repair services - anything from simple oil changes to brakes to engine replacements. Plus, they offer complete digital vehicle inspection that produces detailed information to help their customers make the best decisions on their car care.

Mike and Jennifer were looking for an area where they could open multiple store locations and develop their business and fell in love with Smyrna. "Central Delaware is growing, and it seemed like the perfect fit for us," Jennifer exclaimed.



To show their support to the local community, they offer a 10% discount to first responders, active-duty military and members of the Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce.

Anyone interested in learning more about Meineke Car Care or scheduling an appointment at the

new Smyrna location can contact them at 302-894-8828 or [www.meineke.com/locations/de/smyrna-2974/](http://www.meineke.com/locations/de/smyrna-2974/).

Please join Meineke Car Care and the Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce to celebrate the opening of their new location in Smyrna!

## CDCC Celebrates 8th Anniversary for La Baguette French Bakery

DOVER, DE – The Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce (CDCC) hosted a Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony for La Baguette French Bakery on Saturday, March 29th to celebrate the 8th anniversary of their brick-and-mortar shop in downtown Dover at 323 S. Governors Avenue. Chamber members, local dignitaries and friends joined the owners, Chef Ludovic and Anita Bezy, for an anniversary celebration and Customer Appreciation Day which included live music by local musician Jim Rezac, food samples, giveaways, and of course, cake.

For 8 years, La Baguette has offered authentic French breads, pastries and savory items to the greater Dover community. Their patrons love their fresh



baked goods free of high fructose corn syrup, additives and preservatives. They use only non-GMO flour and are known as a "healthy bakery."

To show their support to the local community, La Baguette "pays it forward" by sharing their surplus baked goods with homeless organizations and the Food Bank of Delaware. Anita added, "We also love our first responders and provide goodies for them daily to thank them for all they do."



Anyone interested in learning more about La Baguette French Bakery should visit their website at [www.labaguettede.com](http://www.labaguettede.com) or call (302) 741-0180.

Please join La Baguette French Bakery and the Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce to celebrate the 8th Anniversary of their Dover location!

**92<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL DOVER DAYS FESTIVAL**  
 PRESENTED BY **WSFS bank**  
*We Stand For Service*  
**DOVERDAYSFESTIVAL.COM**  
**PARADE & VENDOR SIGNUPS DUE WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16**



# New Member Spotlights

## Introducing the Community Powered Federal Credit Union

The Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce (CDCC) is pleased to welcome the Community Powered Federal Credit Union as a new Chamber member!

As a credit union, Community Powered FCU offers various financial services to its members, including loans as well as checking and savings accounts. They specialize in consumer loans for cars, vacations, education, home improvements, personal emergencies, and other needs – and often provide such loans at interest rates lower than those of other lenders.

Community Powered FCU is a financial cooperative, owned and controlled by its members. Unlike a bank or other savings institution, a credit union is not-for-profit, which means that earnings are returned to members in the form of better rates on their savings and loans or are invested in new or improved services. All members of the credit union have something in common. Once an individual purchases a share in the credit union, they become a member. As a shareholder, they help to set the policies and direction of the credit union by electing the board of directors on a one-member, one-vote basis.



By law, credit unions are not allowed to invest in the stock market or other speculative type investments. Members' savings are mainly reinvested in loans to fellow members and debt obligations backed by the U.S. government. In this current environment of economic uncertainty, there is one thing you can be sure of: Community Powered FCU continues to be one of the safest places to place your life savings. They are also poised to help you, doing business as usual in these turbulent times.

The Community Powered Federal Credit Union story is deeply rooted in serving the financial needs of the Delaware community. Their history began in 1962 as DPL Federal Credit Union, founded by Joseph Leary with a goal to “make the financial welfare of credit union members the number one priority.” Initially, they focused on serving employees of Delmarva Power & Light Company.

Over the decades, Community Powered FCU has grown significantly, expanding its reach to include employees of the News Journal



Company and Hercules, Incorporated, and later, the City of Wilmington through the acquisition of United Communities Credit Union.

In 2010, a pivotal moment occurred when they received a Community Charter from the National Credit Union Administration and rebranded as Community Powered. This allowed them to extend their services to all residents, employees, and businesses in New Castle County, north of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal. Recently, in 2023, they expanded again to include Kent County in Delaware and Cecil County in Maryland.

Their decision to become a member of the Chamber is deeply rooted in their 2023 expansion and their commitment to truly serving the broader community. This expansion wasn't just about growth; it was about solidifying their role as a true community partner.

They recognize that to effectively serve these expanded areas, they need to be deeply engaged with the local business environment. They have



found that the Chamber provides an invaluable platform for them to connect with businesses, organizations, and individuals who are the lifeblood of these communities. They believe that by working closely with the Chamber, they can better understand the unique needs of their members and contribute to the economic vitality of the region.

*To find out more about Community Powered FCU, visit their website [cpwrfcu.org](http://cpwrfcu.org). You can also connect with Community Powered FCU via social media on Facebook, Instagram, or LinkedIn.*

*Please join the CDCC in welcoming the Community Powered Federal Credit Union as a new member!*

## Introducing PAQ Solutions

The Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce (CDCC) is pleased to welcome PAQ Solutions as a new Chamber member!

PAQ Solutions provides Licensed Professional Engineering (PE) services.

PAQ Solutions is the area's trusted, local professional engineering firm specializing in automation and control system design, electrical design, integration, qualification, and validation. Their experience ensures reliable and efficient solutions tailored to meet their clients' specific needs.

They offer comprehensive services including automation and control system engineering, system specification documentation, process engineering, project management, quality systems design, commissioning, qualification and validation services and electrical assessments.

They have proven experience in highly regulated industries, from hands-on to design, that allows them to see the big picture of



their clients' processes to provide lasting, compliant solutions to their problems. The “PAQ” initials in their name say it all: Process, Automation, and Quality.

Tony Kline, owner of PAQ Solutions, moved to Sussex County to work as a brewer for Dogfish Head Craft Brewery. Even though he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Physics and Mathematics, Tony developed an interest in automation and electrical engineering. This passion drove him to complete a

Master's Degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Delaware and earn his license in professional engineering in Delaware, Maryland, and Pennsylvania.

The creation of PAQ Solutions arose from a necessity for professional process and automation engineering services in Delaware. PAQ Solutions is a proud partner of local businesses and hopes to support the growing manufacturing industry on the eastern shore.

In his off time, Tony and his wife Kelly play saxophone duets, travel the world, and serve the communities on a variety of committees and boards. However, they spend most of their free time spoiling their dog, Hazel, one of PAQ Solutions' Canine Pawsitive Experience Specialists.

When asked what motivated him to join the CDCC, Tony explained, “We acknowledged the need for networking with potential clients who may not know we exist. We are excited to jump in and help support



the growing manufacturing industry on the eastern shore.”

*To find out more about PAQ Solutions and schedule a time to meet with Tony, please contact him at 302-219-4782 or [info@paqsolutions-de.com](mailto:info@paqsolutions-de.com).*

*Please join the CDCC in welcoming PAQ Solutions as a new member!*

# New Member Spotlights

## Introducing Trendy Blendz Ice Cream and Dessert Bar

The Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce (CDCC) is pleased to welcome Trendy Blendz Ice Cream and Dessert Bar as a new Chamber member!

Trendy Blendz Ice Cream and Dessert Bar is a mobile food vendor that serves crazy shakes, regular milkshakes, sundaes, frizzles, hot stuffed donuts and stuffed ice cream cones

Trendy Blendz brings a live ice cream making experience to the party. They start with premium hand-scooped vanilla ice cream, adding the mix ins of your choice and blending it in a special machine to create the perfect sundae or milkshake tailored to your liking. They blend in fresh fruits, cereals, cakes, pies, cookies and more to satisfy every craving! They love to participate in birthday parties, private parties, fairs, festivals and corporate events. To expand on your event, they also offer music, a light show and a TV screen customized with scrolling photos of the guest(s) of honor to make every event extra special and sophisticated.

Owners Matthew and Heather Winslow moved here from Allentown, PA in 2019 to enjoy the beautiful beaches and friendly communities. During the day, they operate Healthy Home Solutions, a



water damage and mold remediation company they have owned for the past 15 years. Last year they decided to introduce ice cream into their lives to bring some joy and happiness to their family and the surrounding communities.

The Winslows have two children, Leila age 14 and Julian age 12, both of whom work on the truck with their parents. The family spends their spare time traveling, roller skating, going to cheerleading competitions and hanging out at the baseball and softball fields during little league season. When not working in a crawl space or the dessert trailer, they are constantly experimenting with new flavors and creations, which pleases their neighbors and friends whenever they've made too much and need other people's opinions. Heather explains, "Trendy Blendz was created to bring joy and happiness to everyone who we have the pleasure of serving, and we are so excited to get out there this summer and meet



new friends and bring our amazing creations to you!"

When asked what motivated them to become a member of the Chamber, Heather responded, "We want to be more active members of our community and the Chamber. I'm looking forward to networking and meeting new people, who I can learn from and maybe make some new friends!"

*To find out more about Trendy Blendz Ice Cream and Dessert Bar, look for them on social @trendyblendz on Facebook and Instagram, and on TikTok @302trendyblendz. Their website is [www.trendyblendz.com](http://www.trendyblendz.com).*

*Please join the CDCC in welcoming Trendy Blendz Ice Cream and Dessert Bar as a new member!*

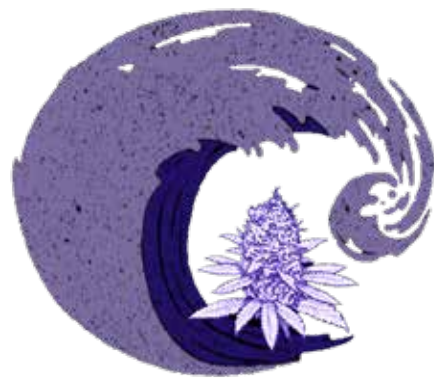
## Introducing Whitecap Cannabis

The Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce (CDCC) is pleased to welcome Whitecap Cannabis as a new Chamber member!

Whitecap Cannabis is a conditionally licensed cannabis cultivation business based in Sussex County.

They offer boutique-level craft cannabis at wholesale prices to licensed cannabis retailers and product manufacturers. Their flowers are pre-packaged and branded, allowing retailers to simply inventory and sell their products.

Their cultivation methodology, combined with their grassroots story—born and raised in Delaware—sets them apart in the cannabis industry. While many involved parties are large out-of-state corporations or inexperienced agriculturalists, Whitecap Cannabis adheres firmly to scientific methods and incorporates advanced cannabis cultivation techniques found on the West Coast, ensuring a higher quality product.



Founder and lead cultivator, Patrick Galloway says, "I am personally 100% invested in Delaware. Born and raised in Milford and educated at the University of Delaware, I have never lived in another state." Patrick goes on to say, "However, my young family has made every county home, at some point in the last 10 years! My family, including my two daughters, is my primary motivation."

In his free time, Patrick works as a first mate on a charter/commercial

fishing vessel, and if he ever gets some time to himself, he loves taking his girls out to the sandbar on our family boat. "The Atlantic Ocean and local bays have always played a significant role in my life, which is reflected in our name, 'Whitecap,'" Patrick explains, "Not only do we aim to be a force to be reckoned with in the cannabis industry just like a turbulent sea, but the 'white caps' of breaking waves serve as a metaphor for the frosty, trichome-rich quality of our harvests."

When asked what motivated them to join the CDCC, Patrick explains that their current networking and fundraising needs are central to their reasons for joining the chamber. Additionally, he is excited about the opportunities to reform and enhance public education regarding cannabis. "Every conversation we have that allows us to share our perspectives and demonstrate the benefits of this plant for society as a whole is



valuable to the larger cause," Patrick exclaims.

*For more information on Whitecap Cannabis, visit their website at [www.whitecapcannabis.com](http://www.whitecapcannabis.com) or look for them on social media. You can also contact Patrick at (302) 943-4768 or [patrick@whitecapcannabis.com](mailto:patrick@whitecapcannabis.com).*

*Please join the Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce in welcoming Whitecap Cannabis as a new Chamber member!*

# Member of the Month



**NAME:** Tina Gary  
**TITLE:** Business Services Representative  
**BUSINESS:** Department of Labor-Employment & Training  
**ADDRESS:** Blue Hen Cooperate Center, 655 S. Bay Rd. Dover

**PHONE:** 302-857-5862  
**WEBSITE:** [labor.delaware.gov/divisions/employment-training/](http://labor.delaware.gov/divisions/employment-training/)  
**EMAIL:** Tina.gary@delaware.gov



**Tell us about your business/organization.**

The Delaware Department of Labor, Division of Employment and Training (DET) provides a wide variety of one-stop integrated employment and training services and programs, including occupational skill training programs, re-employment services, employer services, and user-friendly career resource centers. DET aims to enable employers and job seekers to make informed employment and training choices leading to employment.

**Tell us about your role in the business/organization.**

My primary role is to facilitate connections between employers and job seekers aiming to meet the workforce needs

of businesses. As a Business Services Representative I am the primary contact for the Kent County business community supporting their efforts to recruit and hire qualified workers.

**Tell us something that makes your business/organization unique.**

The Division of Employment and Training (DET) administers more than 30 programs and grants statewide, connecting job seekers with employers, while developing Delaware's Workforce to meet the ever-changing needs of its employers. Last year, DET provided virtual and in-person services to:

- More than 8,900 job seekers and more than 94,600 services provided
- Almost 1,500 employers and more than 112,800 job orders posted

• 38 Training Providers  
**What do you see for the future of your business/organization?**

I see DET continuing to help connect job seekers connect with employers statewide through our comprehensive online platform, Delaware JobLink. At no cost, Delaware JobLink helps connect business with top talent and enables you to:

- Post unlimited job opportunities
- Receive AI resume match alerts and staff assisted referrals
- Attend career fairs, in person and virtually
- Connect with staff for any other employment-support needs

**How has the Chamber helped your business/organization grow?**

The Chamber provides an opportunity

for me to network with businesses to promote the Delaware Department of Labor services and programs to everyone.

**What is your best advice to other businesses/organizations?**

The Division of Employment and Training is available to help businesses of all sizes state-wide find and retain qualified employees. Our Business Services Unit can assist with job postings and job fairs to help connect you to the talent that is right for your business. There are many programs available to help businesses like yours succeed. We partner with a variety of training providers throughout the state to offer certificates and degrees for in demand occupations.

## Ambassador's Corner

**Kate Greene**



A thriving Chamber of Commerce is central to a thriving business community. A good Chamber of Commerce can help individual businesses connect and grow, all while strengthening the economy and lives of the members of that community. That's why one of the first things CDCC Ambassador Kate Greene and her husband, Jim Shure, did when they moved and relocated their business, IMD4 to Dover a few years was join the Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce.

"Joining CDCC is one of the best things Jim and I have done since moving to Delaware," said Kate. "Not only have we made great connections for our advertising and marketing business, we've also made some great friends and learned so much

about our new hometown."

Once Kate felt settled into the community, she wanted to find a way to give back to the Chamber, so first she joined the Marketing Committee, then she became a Chamber Ambassador.

CDCC offers its members so much, but sometimes as a new member, and especially when you are now to the community, it's hard to figure out where and how to jump in. The job of the ambassadors is to help new members learn about the CDCC, and to learn about the great benefits to be gained from their membership.

"I also believe that the more you put into your membership, the more you get out of it," said Kate. "It feels great to be able to help new members learn all about this great

organization."

IMD4 is a full-service advertising agency with decades of experience in marketing, design and consulting work. Kate and Jim help clients grow their businesses through branding and advertising strategies, with all communications emphasizing the positives and mitigating the negatives. Kate and Jim have decades of experience in New York City and in the Midwest, and in all media including, TV, radio, digital and print. You can learn more about IMD4 at imd4.com.



## Congratulations - You're a 10!

"Congratulations – You're a 10!" is designed to recognize, congratulate and highlight recently renewed members who are celebrating membership anniversaries in increments of 10.





**RENEWALS FOR MARCH 2025 - THANK YOU FOR YOUR RENEWAL!**

Company Name	YRS	Company Name	YRS
Comcast	36	Leander Lakes, LLC	9
Forever Media Inc.	31	Delaware Municipal Electric Corporation - DEMEC	8
McKinney's Towing & Road Service	30	AARP Delaware	7
Kent Sign Co.	26	George Bailey	7
Delaware DNREC	25	Miller's Roofing & Coatings, LLC	7
Delaware Association of REALTORS®	24	Chaiyo Sushi & Thai Cuisines	6
Holiday Inn Express	24	Chaiyo Sushi & Thai Cuisines - Camden	6
People's Place	23	Maxed Out Vape	6
First State Manufactured Housing Assoc.	22	Meals On Wheels Delaware	6
Bob Johnsons Computer Stuff, Inc	21	Schlosser & Associates Mechanical Contractors	6
Keller Williams Realty Central Delaware	21	G. Fedale - Lewes	5
Sleep Inn and Suites	17	G. Fedale - Wilmington	5
Law Office of Karen Y. Vicks, LLC	17	Liza Orlando, Realtor - Keller Williams Realty	5
Delaware Division for the Visually Impaired	15	Dr. Wilma Mishoe	5
State Farm Insurance - Bennett Ins. Agency Inc.	15	Dover Public Library	4
Corp1, Inc.	14	Skyline Catering LLC	4
Pinnacle Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center	14	Big Brothers Big Sisters of Delaware - Dover	2
Auntie Anne's Soft Pretzels	13	Garner Group Financial, LLC	2
American Legion Post 14 & Station 64	12	NEW DAY Pregnancy Care Center	2
Delaware Health Information Network	12	Pierce Fence Company, Inc.	2
Delaware Public Media	12	Coastal Medical Center	1
Americare Home Solutions	11	Integrated Financial Insights LLC	1
The Moving Experience	11	NFN Brain Connections	1
JEM Pest Solutions Inc.	10	Passanantes Home Food Service	1
Read Aloud Delaware	10	Principal	1
Shore United Bank - Camden	10	Rail Haus	1
KRM Development Corporation	9		

**NEW MEMBERS**

<b>1st in Line Heating &amp; Air LLC</b>	Zack Pennypacker	110 Kenmark Rd.	Newark	DE	19713	302-932-8276
<b>Cripston LLC</b>	Laydin Babashov	108 W 13rd Street	Wilmington	DE	19801	860-300-9000
<b>Dawn Curtiss -Independent Pampered Chef Consultant</b>	Dawn Curtiss	3859 Whiteleysburg Road	Harrington	DE	19952	302-222-8114
<b>Fitzgerald Consulting, Inc.</b>	Joseph Fitzgerald	P.O. Box 7304	Wilmington	DE	19803	302-750-8689
<b>Help at Home</b>	Sean Malarick	3 Mill Road, Suite 303	Wilmington	DE	19806	484-439-4523
<b>Hillis-Carnes Engineering Associates</b>	Dylan Mills	1277 McD Drive	Dover	DE	19901	302-612-5374
<b>Josh's Lawn Care LLC</b>	Joshua Bezy	1214 Voshells Mill Rd.	Dover	DE	19901	302-465-7028
<b>Kent Electrical Services</b>	Dustin Beckhorn	112 Lake Drive	Felton	DE	19943	302-922-4631
<b>Nutrihealth</b>	Chelby McCall	200 Banning St. Suite 280	Dover	DE	19904	443-566-0623
<b>Rooah! LLC</b>	Robert Njoku	768 Townsend Blvd, Suite #3	Dover	DE	19901	302-233-7557
<b>Spicer Bros. Construction Inc.</b>	Taylor Joseph	32221 Beaver Run Dr.	Salisbury	MD	21804	410-546-1190
<b>U.S. Air &amp; Space Force Recruiting</b>	Mandy Swaney	1263 N Dupont Hwy Dr	Dover	DE	19901	302-387-5192
<b>Village &amp; Venue</b>	Taylor Rettano	27 South Walnut Street, Suite 104	Milford	DE	19963	302-387-9972
<b>Whitecap Cannabis</b>	Patrick Galloway	8896 Herring Branch Rd	Lincoln	DE	19960	302-943-4768

# Coffee On Us!

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**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 March "Coffee On Us" Contest was Anna Morgan with Lifestyle Document Management, Inc. She correctly identified the photo on the front page as the Delaware State Police Museum. Congratulations, Anna, 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.\*\*\*

# Join Our Growing News Media Team!

## Hiring a Special Events Coordinator

*Full or Part Time*



- Winning Attributes:
- ♦ Self-starting attitude
  - ♦ Proactively identify, qualify, and onboard new advertising and recommended partners
  - ♦ Highly organized to assist with the fine details of events
  - ♦ Remote and in-person work, requiring excellent self-management skills



Apply by emailing resumé to Jessica Cook at [jcook@iniusa.org](mailto:jcook@iniusa.org)

Base pay plus commission opportunities. We are looking for a Special Events Coordinator to be active in Central and South Delaware and Eastern Shore Maryland. We strive to attract people who are enthused about Independent's Mission and who share our values. EOE

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