

MIDDLETOWN SMYRNA

# INDEPENDENT

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## Wayne DeMarco advocates for BAYADA Hearts for Home Care

Story on page 4

Wayne DeMarco of Smyrna is a advocate for BAYADA Hearts for Home Care. For video with this story, visit [baytobaynews.com](http://baytobaynews.com). MIDDLETOWN SMYRNA INDEPENDENT/CRAIG ANDERSON

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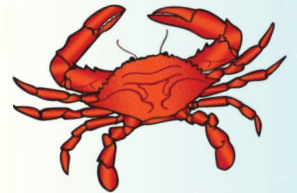


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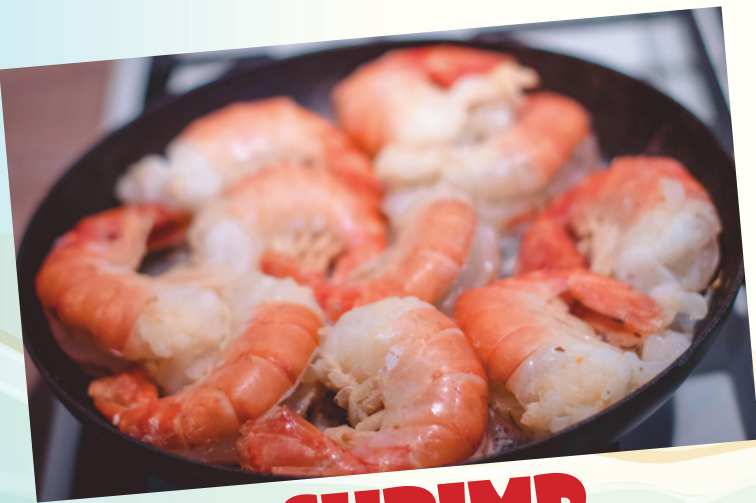
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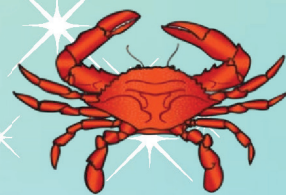
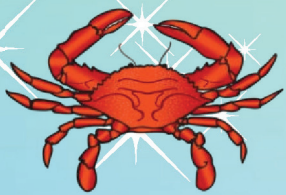
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## FROM THE COVER

# Disabled Smyrna man advocates for others injured

By Craig Anderson

Middletown Smyrna Independent

SMYRNA — Wayne DeMarco takes responsibility for the crash that left him a quadriplegic in 2016.

Now, the 30-year-old feels a duty to aid other disabled individuals.

Mr. DeMarco is an advocate for BAYADA Hearts for Home Care, counseling others with traumatic injuries. The organization is composed of thousands of home care recipients, their families and friends, and caregiving professionals concerned about the challenges of such services.

“I do help newly injured people, and that makes me feel better,” he said. “I want to help anyone who is lost and confused about what they need to do from here. I like to jump in and help however I can.”

The Hearts for Home Care non-profit returned the favor March 8, with a trip to a game between the NHL’s Philadelphia Flyers and Seattle Kraken.

Along with attendance at the contest, Mr. DeMarco and his family received other perks at the Wells Fargo Center, like premium parking and seating, gift bags, a meet-and-greet with Flyers mascot Gritty and VIP access to the alumni suite to join former players.

As a former Delaware Ducks ice hockey player, Mr. DeMarco described the event as an “awesome surprise.”

The sports angle is one that fits him well, as he’s also a big Philadelphia Eagles fan. Following the team’s recent Super Bowl championship, a Birds flag was flying in front of his home — which he shares with his parents — for more than two weeks.

“I love watching sports and keeping up with what players are doing,” he said.

When he’s not taking in a game on TV, Mr. DeMarco “loves going out to eat, hanging out with my friends.”

“My friends are able to pick me up, and we’ll go (to) the casino, go to the beach. I like anything that’s wild-life-oriented. I love to be in nature,” he continued.

Since his injury Jan. 1, 2016, he has made significant progress, with years of hard work.

Around 1 a.m., and he was traveling alone in his vehicle on Interstate 95, near the Christiana Mall. That’s all he recalls, remembering nothing about the collision itself.

“It was my first New Year’s being 21, and I went a bit overboard,” he said. “Thank God, I only hurt myself.”

“That’s a big lifesaver and makes me feel a lot better about my situation because I can’t blame it on anybody else. If you make your own bed, you have to lay in it.”

Mr. DeMarco, a St. Georges Technical High School graduate, feels blessed that an ambulance was behind the crash. Following the incident, those providers took him to the hospital.

He spent the next four months on a ventilator, due to a broken neck, before gradually recovering enough to begin therapy.

These days, with the assistance of devices and a BAYADA nurse, he can brush his teeth, get dressed, shower and perform other personal care. That caregiver is at his home from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. each weekday, which he said gives his parents a break.

“Luckily, I’ve been able to gain a lot of movement,” he said. “My caregivers have helped me so much and help me with anything I need during the day.”



Wayne DeMarco and BAYADA nurse Anastasia Sandles are together five days a week. MIDDLETOWN SMYRNA INDEPENDENT/CRAIG ANDERSON



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## FROM THE COVER

# Advocate

Continued From Page 4

Mr. DeMarco said he fully believes he'll walk again.

"I'm going to do my best to do so. I do a lot of therapy with electrical stimulation, and that's definitely helped me put ... a lot of muscle back on, and that's the main thing that got me back to where I'm at.

"I do a lot of breathing exercises and make the best of my condition. That way, I'm not getting the pneumonia and (urinary tract infections) that are common for people with my condition. So, I try to stay as healthy as possible for when that day comes."

For information on Hearts for Home Care, visit [heartsforhomecare.com](http://heartsforhomecare.com), email [advocacy@heartsforhomecare.com](mailto:advocacy@heartsforhomecare.com) or call 267-592-4855.

*Staff writer Craig Anderson can be reached at 302-741-8296 or [canderson@iniusa.org](mailto:canderson@iniusa.org). Follow @DSNAnderson on X.*



Wayne DeMarco watches the Philadelphia Flyers play at the Wells Fargo Center on March 8. PHOTO COURTESY OF BAYADA HEARTS FOR HOME CARE.



Wayne DeMarco enjoys some time with Philadelphia Flyers mascot Gritty on March 8. PHOTO COURTESY OF BAYADA HEARTS FOR HOME CARE



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- To provide a right to reply to those we write about.
- To treat people with courtesy, respect and compassion.

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The Middletown Smyrna Independent is published by Independent Newsmedia Inc. USA. Independent is owned by a unique trust that enables this newspaper to pursue a mission of journalistic service to the citizens of the community. Since no dividends are paid, the company is able to thrive on profit margins below industry standards. All after-tax surpluses are reinvested in Independent's mission of journalistic service, commitment to the ideals of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, and support of the community's deliberation of public issues.



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# New Smyrna superintendent loves work

Deborah Judy feels 'joy and pride' as leader of school district

By Craig Anderson  
Middletown Smyrna Independent

SMYRNA — Deborah Judy has been a teacher, a principal and an assistant superintendent, among other roles, in the Smyrna School District.

Now, she oversees all those positions and more.

On March 20, Ms. Judy was named superintendent by the district's board of education, after serving as its interim leader following the Jan. 1 resignation of Susan Brown for personal reasons.

Following a two-year stint in public education in northern Virginia, Ms. Judy, now 46, started work in the Smyrna School District in 2005.

The move brought her closer to Hartly and Dover, where she was born and raised. She graduated from Dover High School and now lives in Smyrna with her husband and son.

Ms. Judy earned a bachelor's degree in social welfare from the University of Delaware and two master's, in education and counseling, from Wilmington University.

She also holds certifications in middle-level education, gifted-and-talented education, special education, principalship and superintendency.

And there's plenty to manage in Smyrna, a district with nearly 6,000 students, 1,000 employees and 40 open teaching positions — vacancies that can fluctuate.

Further — with the transition of Clayton Intermediate School to Clayton Middle and an addition to North Smyrna Elementary all coming in fall 2026 — more expansion is on the way. A new intermediate



New superintendent Deborah Judy has worked in the Smyrna School District for 20 years in a variety of roles. PHOTO COURTESY OF SMYRNA SCHOOL DISTRICT

school will arrive in fall 2027, too.

But, similar to other school districts, recruitment and retention is a significant challenge in Smyrna, and Ms. Judy said this month's failed referendum "means our salaries will continue to lag neighboring districts'."

"We need to be able to compete, and without additional funds, we will continue to struggle," she explained.

On the other hand, there's plenty to be inspired by at the district's facilities.

"I love the community of the Smyrna School District," Ms. Judy said. "I chose this district to raise my son. I've lived and worked here long enough that former students of mine are now parents, teachers and even administrators in our schools.

"It brings me joy and pride to watch them grow and thrive."

She also calls the staff her "chosen family."

"I have worked alongside so many of them in multiple schools and offic-

es. Some are colleagues of my husband's or close friends or teachers of my son," Ms. Judy continued.

"Everything about the support we give each other in good times and not-so-good times made me want to lead this school district. I strive to be the leader our students, staff and families can count on."

When it comes to her management style, she cited service, dedication and personal connections, adding, "I believe that every team member is integral to our success. I strive to make each person feel valued, and it starts with knowing their names, their stories, their families and their goals."

Like any organization, Ms. Judy said the district can make improvements.

"Student achievement and staff recruitment and retention are goals that will always be on the list," she noted.

Ms. Judy provided no comment on the November 2024 arrests of three district employees on offenses of endangering the welfare of a child, incidents that allegedly occurred at a Smyrna school.

During her off-time, Ms. Judy enjoys watching her son, sophomore Gray Judy, play football and lacrosse for Smyrna High and her husband coach both sports there.

Additionally, "I have three bulldogs. When I was the principal at Sunnyside Elementary School, I brought my first bulldog, Frank, to school with me."

Joining her fondness of the Smyrna School District is her passion for the area as a whole.

"My time outside of my job is generally still spent in the community. I really do love this place."

Staff writer Craig Anderson can be reached at 302-741-8296 or [canderson@iniusa.org](mailto:canderson@iniusa.org). Follow @DSNAnderson on X.



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# Smyrna library closes doors for larger location

## New site will open in mid- to late May

By Craig Anderson

Middletown Smyrna Independent

SMYRNA — As the longtime location closure neared a bittersweet feeling surrounded the Smyrna Public Library.

That's according to director Pat Young regarding the library's short move in the historic downtown area.

"The overall feedback I'm hearing from people is they love this cozy, quaint, homey library but are very much looking forward to the new library and all the huge space," she said.

The library at 107 S. Main St. closed March 15 and the new location at 22 S. Main St. is scheduled to open in mid- to late May.

After the closing, according to a library Facebook post, "(I)f you have materials to return or require computer or printing services, you will need to visit another public library in the state.

"The closest libraries include Dover Public Library, Appoquinimink Community Library (Middletown), and Corbit-Calloway Public Library (Odessa)."

The 2,500-square-foot Smyrna Public Library will be renamed and replaced by the 22,000-square-foot Duck Creek Regional Library. All but one of the 10 current staff will transfer to the new site and the other is retiring.

Ms. Young said the process of moving just over 23,000 books to the new library would take two weeks.

The library opened in the downtown area in 1858 and moved to its current location in 1869. The town-owned space will be transferred to the Smyrna Opera House next door.



Karen Surles shares her thoughts on the Smyrna Public Library before its closure. For video with this story, visit [baytobaynews.com](http://baytobaynews.com). MIDDLETOWN SMYRNA INDEPENDENT/CRAIG ANDERSON

The independent library is supported by the State of Delaware, Kent and New Castle counties, local municipalities and donations.

Richard Y. Johnson & Son is the contractor for the approximately \$17 million project building the new library and construction is expected to be completed in April. It was funded by a state bond, American Rescue Plan Act money and private donations during an 18-year quest by supporters.

For information, email [friendsofduckcreeklibrary@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofduckcreeklibrary@gmail.com) or visit Friends of Duck Creek Regional Library.

### Library's MayFest in Odessa set for May 3

ODESSA — The Corbit-Calloway Memorial Library, Delaware's oldest free library, will host its 12th annual MayFest on Saturday, May 3, a news release said.

The event, scheduled from 9 a.m.

to 3 p.m., will feature local crafters, vendors, food, games, inflatables, and children's activities. Highlights include live music, a petting zoo, train rides, costumed characters, and a large book sale sponsored by the Friends of the Corbit-Calloway Memorial Library. A raffle, offering more than 100 prizes, will also be available. Admission is free; tickets for special amusements will be sold separately.

MayFest annually attracts thousands of visitors and supports the library's summer reading program, which helps prevent educational setbacks during school vacation and provides cultural and educational activities for local youth, a news release said.

Free shuttle service to and from MayFest will be available from the Old State Elementary School campus at 580 Tony Marchio Drive, Townsend.

For information, visit [corbitcallo-way.lib.de.us](http://corbitcallo-way.lib.de.us) or call 302-378-8838.



The Smyrna Public Library was at its now-closed location since 1869. MIDDLETOWN SMYRNA INDEPENDENT/CRAIG ANDERSON



Smyrna Public Library Director Pat Young stands amongst books. MIDDLETOWN SMYRNA INDEPENDENT/CRAIG ANDERSON



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# Officials outline plans for Middletown area growth

By Craig Anderson

Middletown Smyrna Independent

MIDDLETOWN — The annual Spring Business Luncheon drew an attentive crowd of 200 attendees April 16.

Insight from state and town leadership came at the start of the Middletown Area Chamber of Commerce's gathering at Middletown Memorial Hall.

In public remarks, CJ Bell outlined the priorities for helping companies thrive in what he said were challenging economic times.

The atmosphere, according to the director of the Delaware Small Business Administration, involves "unfortunately a very volatile market."

"If you look at the federal climate it's not been great (and) you see some things happening at the state level as well but our job is to make sure that every hour you spend here with us that's taking an hour away from your job ... so we want to make sure we give you the support you need."

According to Mr. Bell, "I feel strongly that you don't know what you don't know."

"All of us have dealt with some sort of obstacle we have had to overcome from generation to generation and in order to grow we need to take a dynasty mindset."

"What does that mean? Anybody that comes after me in my role, in my background shouldn't have to go through the same obstacles I went through."

"I'm pretty sure a lot of you feel the same way. So me personally, there's no reason that a business that starts today should have to go through the same troubles a business that started five, six years ago (did)."

"It just doesn't make sense to me. What are we doing? Are we actually learning from the lessons and the



Middletown Area Chamber of Commerce members chat during the annual Spring Business Luncheon April 16. For video with this story, visit [baytobaynews.com](http://baytobaynews.com). MIDDLETOWN SMYRNA INDEPENDENT/CRAIG ANDERSON



Brandon Phillips of New York Life, left, meets with Middletown Area Chamber of Commerce Membership Engagement Coordinator Stephanie Dawkins. MIDDLETOWN SMYRNA INDEPENDENT/CRAIG ANDERSON



Joe Kaluzny of Evolution Karate Academy, left, is next to Charles Ringgold of Salt of the Earth Cave. MIDDLETOWN SMYRNA INDEPENDENT/CRAIG ANDERSON

programs that we're putting out?

"So again, outreach is not just social media posting about who we are, what we do but it's also ensuring that you all have the resources that you need in order to thrive in the state of Delaware."

Middletown Mayor Ken Branner spoke next, detailing progress on projects including residential communities, roadway expansion, commercial properties and more. All of

the ventures were approved by the town and ready to begin construction within six months, he said.

The preview included ChristianaCare plans to expand its space, according to the mayor. Construction on an ambulance surgi-center is scheduled to begin in the first quarter of 2026, Mayor Branner said.

Adding affordable housing through the coming expansion is a must since "that is the biggest demand in the state of Delaware," he said.



Middletown Mayor Ken Branner provided updates on growth within the town. MIDDLETOWN SMYRNA INDEPENDENT/CRAIG ANDERSON



Delaware Division of Small Business Director CJ Bell outlines priorities on April 16. MIDDLETOWN SMYRNA INDEPENDENT/CRAIG ANDERSON

The \$1.3 billion Wuxi Pharmaceutical facility, with seven buildings in its complex, is expected to open in 2027 and employ a workforce of 1,200, the mayor said.

Also, the chamber affirmed the addition of Bryan Bookout, Lauren DiRenzo, Eric Mays, Beth Ann Oliphant and Noah Lux to its board of directors.

Staff writer Craig Anderson can be reached at 302-741-8296 or [canderson@iniusa.org](mailto:canderson@iniusa.org). Follow @DSNAnderson on X



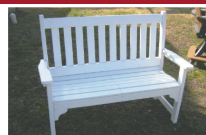
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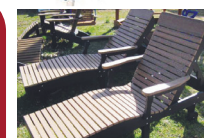
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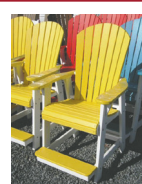
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# Three vying for Appoquinimink school board seat

By Craig Anderson

Middletown Smyrna Independent

MIDDLETOWN — The Appoquinimink School Board election is set for May 13 and includes three candidates vying for one seat.

Chuck Boyce, Sandhya Celestin-Brown and Tim Higgins are seeking the at-large four-year term that expires June 30, 2029.

Ms. Celestin-Brown and Mr. Higgins provided answers to emailed questions. Mr. Boyce did not respond as of deadline.

Answers were edited due to space considerations.

The candidates are seeking to fill the seat of school board member Michelle Wall, whose term expires this year.

Voting runs from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Bunker Hill, Cedar Lane, Olive B. Loss, Old State, Silver Lake and Townsend elementary schools, along with Middletown High and Marion Proffitt Training Center.

School board members include president Richard Forsten, vice president Tashiba Graham, Norm Abrams and Nichelle DeWitt.

For information, visit [elections.delaware.gov](https://elections.delaware.gov).

## Sandhya Celestin-Brown

**Why do you want to serve on the Appoquinimink Board of Education?**

As a first-generation American, I learned early on what assimilating meant. I believed that to belong, I had to change parts of my identity, starting with my name. A teacher once told me to go by “Cynthia” because it would make it easier to fit in. As a child, I trusted that guidance.

But as I grew older, I realized that true belonging should never come at the cost of who we are. This experience shaped my passion for education and my commitment to making sure



**Sandhya Celestin-Brown is running for a seat on the Appoquinimink School Board of Education.**

PHOTO COURTESY OF SHANNON WOODLOE

no student feels they must change to be accepted.

Children are deeply influenced by the adults they trust and as a school board member, I want to ensure that influence is used to uplift, empower and embrace the unique identities of every student.

Education should be a place of growth, not a place where identity is erased. Today, as government policies attempt to dictate what can be read in classrooms, where students should go to use the restroom, and who gets access to education, it is more important than ever to focus on what truly matters: our children.

Politics should not distract from the core mission of education.

I never imagined stepping into this role, but I am here because I know we must do more. My name is Dr. Sandhya Celestin-Brown and I am running for Appoquinimink school board because I am committed to ensuring that the assimilation of all transplant students is a smooth process.

I want to place a stronger focus on mental health and well-being approaches in the classroom for our students. I desire to increase the em-



**Buses park at Everett Meredith Middle School in Middletown on the first day of school Sept. 3, 2024.** DAILY STATE NEWS FILE PHOTO/CRAIG ANDERSON

phasis on safety within the learning environment for all students and the freedom to learn.

I believe that there should be firm support of parents and family engagement in the educational journey. And lastly, I want to serve on the school board because I want to be an advocate for financial accountability and transparency for all stakeholders.

**What qualifications would you bring to the table?**

I earned my Ph.D. in social work from Widener University, which provided me with a deep understanding of human behavior, mental health and evidence-based interventions. I hold several professional licenses and certifications, including Licensed Chemical Dependent Professional and Licensed Social Worker.

I have actively participated in various workshops and training sessions focused on areas such as:

- Substance use disorders and treatment modalities
- Trauma-informed care
- Cultural competency and diversity training
- Crisis intervention strategy

**What are the biggest challenges facing the Appoquinimink School District?**

Addressing the whole person.

Empowering educators.

Protecting the freedom to learn and promoting inclusion.

What would be your biggest priorities over the next four years?

Student Advocacy.

Community Liaison.

Steward of Public Funds.

**Which three people do you most admire?**

God. My Mother. My husband.

**What’s the last book you read?**

The last book I read was “Crucial Conversations” by Joseph Grenny, Kerry Patterson, Ron McMillan, Al Switzler and Emily Gregory.

## Tim Higgins

**Why do you want to serve on the Appoquinimink Board of Education?**

My reason for wanting to is deeply rooted, to give back to a community that was there for my family when it needed it most.

When our oldest son Shane was eagerly anticipating graduation from eighth grade at (Alfred G. Waters Middle School) he was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia. His diagnosis and recovery are for a different time, but his former and current teachers’ support embedded in me a deep debt of gratitude to the Appo community.

From hospital visits that included messages from classmates and homemade cookies to eventually coordinating homebound instruction, giving extra support for our younger two so we could focus more time on our son, made me realize how multifaceted and important a public school community can be. The reason why I believe I should serve is because I have the skills, experiences and empathy to help Appo overcome its unique challenges.



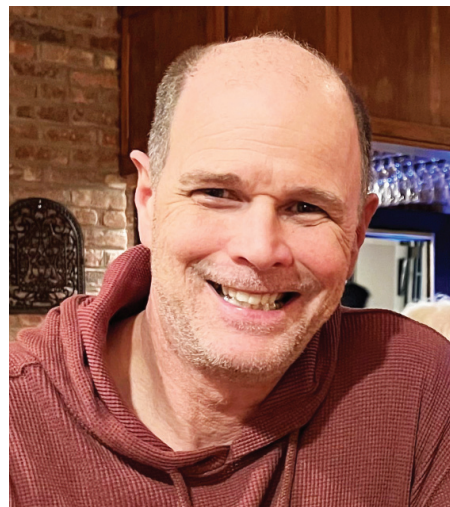
# School Board

Continued From Page 14

**What qualifications would you bring to the table?**

My experience as a parent to three unique Appo and very different students has allowed me to understand and witness the intricate blend of challenges and strengths that make up our school community. Owning and running a business for over 30 years, I have successfully developed budgets that prioritize fiscal responsibility by not only balancing anticipated expenses but also anticipating and allocating funds for unforeseen, yet predictable, circumstances. I've been involved in various organizations.

I served on the finance committee and headed the Ministers of Hospitality at Saint Margaret's. I was president of Canal Little League and served on its board for five years. I also participated in campaigns for The Leukemia and Lymphoma So-



**Tim Higgins is running for a seat on the Appoquinimink School Board of Education.** PHOTO COURTESY OF TIM HIGGINS

ciety.

Working with and leading these various non-compensated boards taught me how to strike a balance between working with volunteers and recognizing their invaluable contributions while doing a crucial job such as running a school board.

**Why should voters choose you over your opponents?**

I believe that besides being the most well-balanced candidate running, I am the only candidate who has or has had children in the Appo School District.

More to the point, I am the only candidate who's had children ever attend any public school. I am not judging a family's decision. If Lori and I had the resources, I cannot say for certain we would not have at least thought of enrolling our kids in a private school.

However, our family's time in the Appoquinimink School District has spanned over 20 consecutive years, comprised of over 35 individual school years and counting. In those years, we've utilized or have been a part of various different programs at Appo. From kids being inducted into the Honor Society and having honors classes to going to I.E.P. meetings to discuss unmet accommodations. These experiences are invaluable re-

sources to draw from when creating policy, evaluating programs or simply being able to listen to an emotional or frustrated parent with the empathy of another parent who has been there.

**What are the biggest challenges facing the Appoquinimink School District?**

Quality of education our students are receiving.

Fiscal challenges.

**What would be your biggest priorities over the next four years?**

Improve our classroom learning environment.

Fiscal responsibility.

Support our students with special needs.

**Which three people do you most admire?**

My son Shane. My mom. My brother Mike.

**What's the last book you read?**

"Red Dragon."

*Staff writer Craig Anderson can be reached at 302-741-8296 or [canderson@iniusa.org](mailto:canderson@iniusa.org). Follow @DSNAnderson on X.*



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# Carry the Load to visit VFW post in Smyrna

By Craig Anderson

Middletown Smyrna Independent

SMYRNA — This year's Carry the Load visit comes with a little extra incentive for attendees.

On May 2, host Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8801 has also invited veterans resource organizations for an informational fair.

Combining the events makes sense, according to past post commander Chuck Mankin.

"The VFW motto is 'Nobody Does More for Vets.' So, we want to do more for vets. We'll have great resources present," he said.

"These are things that will help you if you're struggling or not working. We're working to get some unions out there, who will hire vets and give them some purpose."

The Carry the Load contingent has visited the post every year since 2021. Its members journey through the United States via bus, making stops and walking to honor veterans and first responders.

According to Carry the Load's website, it's a "non-profit organization that exists to preserve the sanctity of Memorial Day through community gatherings and storytelling to unite Americans in appreciation for the sacrifices made by a few who carried the load for all."

The May 2 gathering will run from 8:30 a.m. to noon at the post, 4941 Wheatleys Pond Road.

"This has really become a feather in our cap, that we do this for the community," Mr. Mankin said. "It gets us out there and says, 'Hey, look at us and what we're doing.'"

An event brochure reads, "We'll walk and gather as a community to reflect, connect, and show our support for our nation's heroes. Enjoy food, inspirational speakers and a



Chuck Mankin and Arlene Collier-Mankin display a Carry the Load flyer for the May 2 event. MIDDLETOWN SMYRNA INDEPENDENT/CRAIG ANDERSON

walk to honor the fallen at this family-friendly (program)."

Beginning at 9:25, walkers can take 1.8- or 4.3-mile loops.

Mr. Mankin said the effort continues the post's mission to affect local residents in positive ways.

"We've gotten out in the community and given back, which is a big part of what the VFW does," he said.

"The VFW, as a whole, has an image problem. We are (seen as) an old man's drinking club, and we are not that.

"We are a community service post. We want to get that out there, that 'Hey, if you're not looking for just another bar with cheap drinks, you can come over to our post.' We do things. We get out there."

The VFW will host a team named

the "Smyrna-Clayton Patriots" for the walk, and individuals can sign up, as well.

There is no cost to participate in the walk, Ms. Collier-Mankin said.

For information or to register, visit [carrytheload.org](http://carrytheload.org).

Staff writer Craig Anderson can be reached at 302-741-8296 or [canderson@iniusa.org](mailto:canderson@iniusa.org). Follow @DSNAnderson on X.



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# Mother Nurture business eases composting

## Food scraps delivered from Delaware to Pennsylvania

By Craig Anderson  
Middletown Smyrna Independent

SMYRNA — Tiffany Gaston aims to improve the environment, one 5-gallon bucket at a time.

That's why she started Mother Nurture Composting Services, which transports food scraps to Linvilla Orchards in Media, Pennsylvania, for processing.

For \$28 monthly, customers can turn over their compostable waste for conversion into a soil enrichment product, reducing landfill waste, she said.

Ms. Gaston drops off empty buckets and picks them up full twice a month. She added that, typically, only one is needed per visit for a family of five. Meat is the only scrap not accepted.

The business began in late February, and Ms. Gaston says she has collected 135 pounds of waste from four customers so far.

Her main goal is decreasing air pollutants.

"I've always liked the idea of composting because 58% of methane emissions come from food waste (in landfills), and that seems like a very easy problem to fix," she said. "It seems like low-hanging fruit, and that kind of spoke to me, that maybe I could do that."

Ms. Gaston hopes to enroll at least 1,000 clients, "which would make a huge impact on the Earth."

Her environmental focus even carries over to her advertising, as she uses door hangers made of plant paper to avoid waste. The hangers grow into flowers once planted, she said.

While commercial composting



**Mother Nurture Composting Services owner Tiffany Gaston holds a bucket used to discard food waste. For video with this story, visit baytobaynews.com. MIDDLETOWN SMYRNA INDEPENDENT/ CRAIG ANDERSON**

services are not allowed in Delaware — which is why she travels to Pennsylvania — Ms. Gaston added that she's working with legislators to perhaps bring changes.

"I would love to do it closer to home since efficiency is my goal, and bringing it all the way up to Pennsylvania is not efficient," she said.

"Also, I would love to be not the only one doing it because it would

bring a huge impact in general."

Ms. Gaston said she's targeting the Middletown and Smyrna areas with her business.

For information, call 302-465-6520, email [mothernurturecompost@gmail.com](mailto:mothernurturecompost@gmail.com) or visit [mothernurturecompost.com](http://mothernurturecompost.com).

*Staff writer Craig Anderson can be reached at 302-741-8296 or [canderson@iniusa.org](mailto:canderson@iniusa.org). Follow @DSNAnderson on X.*



**Mother Nurture Composting Services owner Tiffany Gaston holds a advertising door hanger made of plant paper. MIDDLETOWN SMYRNA INDEPENDENT/ CRAIG ANDERSON**



# Potassium iodide tablets distributed in Middletown

By Craig Anderson

Middletown Smyrna Independent

MIDDLETOWN — Distribution of potassium iodide tablets designed to protect against a highly unlikely nuclear emergency was held on April 3.

The Delaware Emergency Management Agency oversaw the process that ran from 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. at Volunteer Hose Co..

The tablets were available to residents near the Salem and Hope Creek Nuclear Generation station in Lower Alloways Creek, New Jersey.

The 10-mile Emergency Planning Zone in Delaware is comprised of four Emergency Response Planning Areas:

- ♦ Port Penn, Odessa, East of Townsend, North Smyrna, and South St. George's Areas
- ♦ Middletown, East of Townsend, and North Smyrna Areas.
- ♦ Delaware City, North Middletown, St. George's, and Reybold Areas.
- ♦ The Delaware River and Bay.

According to DEMA spokesperson Stephen Davis, there has never been an incident "that would have required any type of protective action, including the use of (potassium iodide) tablets."

Mr. Davis added that "Nuclear power generation has proven to be extremely safe to our communities.

"Safety regulations and safety measures built into the design of the generation stations provide a 'defense in depth' strategy that allows nuclear generation stations to operate with an extreme level of safety."

If an incident occurred, Mr. Davis said, the Emergency Alert System would send public notifications through the Emergency Broadcast System as well as alerts sent to cellular devices located in the Emergency Planning Zone during the emergen-

cy.

Mr. Davis said distribution events typically occur in April in the Middletown area and October in the Townsend area.

The program began in 2002 and over 13,500 residents have acquired more than 48,000 tablets for free since 2019, Mr. Davis said.

Also, he said, "That number does not include doses provided to local schools, daycares, businesses and, medical facilities in the Emergency Planning Zone."

The tablet program is a high priority for the agency's emergency preparedness plans, Mr. Davis said.

"DEMA takes a whole community approach to disaster preparedness, mitigation and, response," he said.

"Part of community emergency preparedness includes members of the community having an emergency kit and, (potassium iodide) doses are an important part of that kit."

A DEMA news release said that Delaware residents living outside of the 10-mile EPZ who would like to obtain tablets should contact their pharmacist. Potassium iodide is also



available over the counter at some local pharmacies.

Also, DEMA said, potassium iodide is available to residents who have received it previously and whose tablets have reached their expiration date, as well as those who never received tablets before.

Potassium iodide does not protect against external radiation but can help protect the thyroid gland from ingested or inhaled radioactive iodine

that might be released in a radiation emergency, DEMA said.

The State of Delaware receives the tablets through a program initiated by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

For additional information, call 302-659-3362 or visit [PrepareDE.org](http://PrepareDE.org) or [dema.delaware.gov](http://dema.delaware.gov).

Staff writer Craig Anderson can be reached at 302-741-8296 or [canderson@iniusa.org](mailto:canderson@iniusa.org). Follow @DSNAnderson on X.

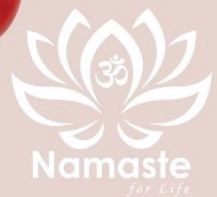




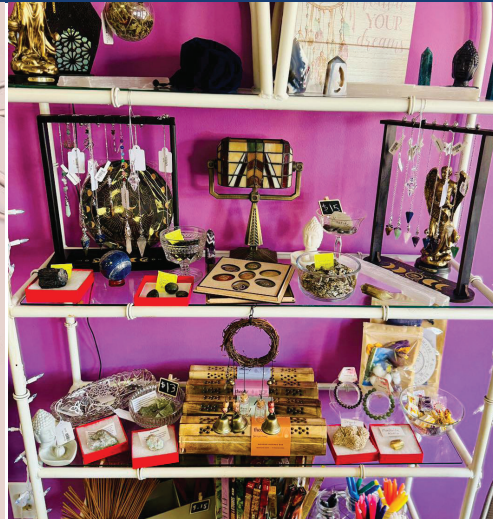
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*Promoting business and enhancing the quality of life in the Southern New Castle County area.*

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## BUSINESS OPENINGS

### Meineke Car Care opens Smyrna location

SMYRNA — The Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce on March 25 hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony for Meineke Car Care's new location at 5700 Dupont Parkway.

Chamber members and friends joined the owners, Mike Keeley and Jennifer Keeley for light refreshments and take-away gifts to celebrate the opening of this new business.

According to a chamber news release, Meineke Smyrna's mission is to provide complete auto repair services and maintenance while building ongoing and trusting customer relationships.

Owner Jennifer Keeley said that "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."

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

According to the release, the Keeleys 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," Ms. Keeley said.

To show their support to the local community, they offer a 10% dis-

count to first responders, active-duty military and members of the Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce, the release said.

For information on the location or to schedule an appointment, call 302-894-8828 or [meineke.com/locations](http://meineke.com/locations).

### Cardiology Physicians expands to Middletown

MIDDLETOWN — Cardiology Physicians opened its newest location at 1050 Industrial Drive.

A news release said "This expansion reflects our commitment to providing high-quality cardiovascular care to more patients in the region, offering state-of-the-art diagnostic and treatment options in a convenient new setting."

According to Cardiology Physicians, the new Middletown office

will offer a full range of cardiology services, including preventative screenings, diagnostic testing, and advanced treatment options for heart and vascular conditions.

"Patients can expect the same expert care and compassionate service that Cardiology Physicians is known for," the release said.

Also, according to Michael Weeks, Marketing and Community Outreach Director of Cardiology Physicians, in the release, "We are thrilled to bring our team of experienced cardiologists and dedicated healthcare professionals to Middletown.

"Our goal is to ensure that patients have access to top-tier cardiovascular care close to home."

Appointments at the new location are now available. To schedule a visit or learn more, call 1-302-994-3278 or visit [cardiocppa.com](http://cardiocppa.com).



The Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce on March 25 hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony for Meineke Car Care's new location at 5700 Dupont Parkway in Smyrna. PHOTO COURTESY OF CENTRAL DELAWARE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Cardiology Physicians opened an office in Middletown on March 31. PHOTO COURTESY OF CARDIOLOGY PHYSICIANS





# NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN!

Stars of Delaware is an exciting honor for your favorite local businesses to be awarded the top prize in their category.

Nominate your favorites as many times as you want in as many categories as you want, just be sure to complete your nominations by the end of the day on Friday, May 19. Remember...the more nominations they receive, the more likely it is that they will appear on the voting ballot. It's easy to do. Simply choose a category, and fill in the details.

All winners will be honored at a special event this September and will have the opportunity to say Thank You to your supporters in the Stars of Delaware Keepsake publishing September 7.

*Let the  
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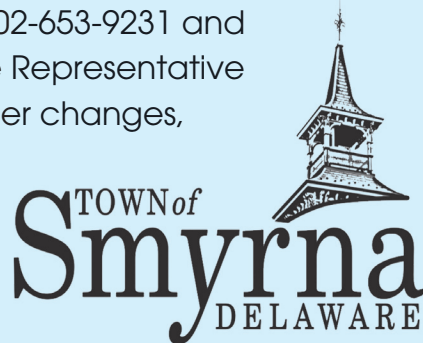


**Interested in learning how your business or organization can participate in Stars of Delaware?  
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Smyrna Town Manager Torie James, left, and George Coates presented evidence at Town Hall on April 8. For video with this story, visit [bayto-baynews.com](http://bayto-baynews.com). MIDDLE-TOWN SMYRNA INDEPENDENT/ CRAIG ANDERSON

## Residency issue ends candidate's bid for office

By Craig Anderson

Middletown Smyrna Independent

SMYRNA — By a 3-1 vote on April 8 Smyrna Town Council members ended the bid of a mayoral candidate over residency issues.

George Coates was determined to be ineligible to run for mayor after roughly 75 minutes of discussion capped by the vote.

Mr. Coates maintained that a property he owned in the 200 block of North Main Street and was restoring should qualify as a domicile and allow him to run for office.

Council members Dean Johnson, Corrine Upshur and Michael Rasmussen disagreed, while William Pressley Sr. was in favor of Mr. Coates staying on the ballot for the election on April 29.

Smyrna Town Manager Torie James said he investigated the matter after receiving calls from residents and determined Mr. Coates was ineligible to run for mayor.

Mr. James offered his thoughts when addressing Town Council prior to the vote as did Mr. Coates when advocating to remain on the ballot.

The decision left current Coun-

cil member Tabitha Gott as the only person on the mayoral ballot. She did not attend the hearing.

Afterward, Mr. Coates repeated his contention that he met the town's domicile requirements but would not contest the decision.

"I will be a part of Smyrna," he said. "I am a part of Smyrna. I live here, I play here, I eat here, I sleep here and it's a travesty this is going on and it's just a mess."

Before discussion began, Mayor Robert Johnson and Council member Alvin Pope recused themselves from the proceedings.

For Town Council, incumbent Mr. Rasmussen is vying to retain his at-large seat, with challenges from Ms. Miles, Deborah Camaratta and Ken Olson.

Nelson Drew Jr. is running unopposed for the District 1 seat.

Voting will take place from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Town Hall, 27 S. Market Street Plaza.

Election winners will be sworn in May 8.

Staff writer Craig Anderson can be reached at 302-741-8296 or [canderson@iniusa.org](mailto:canderson@iniusa.org). Follow @DSNAnderson on X.





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# Smyrna School District seeks input after referendum failure

By Craig Anderson

Middletown Smyrna Independent

CLAYTON — Smyrna School District officials are undecided on their next steps after a \$5.4 million referendum was rejected March 15.

At a school board meeting on March 19, members voiced concern about how the decision would affect students and asked for the public's help in finding solutions.

The referendum requested funds to hire staff, add security measures and more. The unofficial vote was 2,152 against and 1,467 in favor.

During the gathering at Clayton Intermediate School, board of education member Jonathan Snow talked about the entity's next move.

"I think we don't know currently what the path forward is or what the direction is we're going to go," he explained. "It would be a lie to say we're never going to (have) a referendum at some point, but we have no idea when (or for what).

"If you have a brilliant idea, please do not hesitate to reach out to one of us, all of us."

Member Dr. Charlie Wilson pointed to "lies and conspiracies" that he said fueled resistance.

"So, if you decided you were against the referendum, I challenge you to put the same energy into helping us find solutions," he urged. "There's no pot of money that we're



Smyrna School District superintendent Deborah Judy speaks at the board of education meeting on March 19 at Clayton Intermediate School. For video with this story, visit [baytobaynews.com](http://baytobaynews.com).

MIDDLETOWN SMYRNA INDEPENDENT/CRAIG ANDERSON



Smyrna school board members Dr. Charlie Wilson and Bobbi Jo Webber sit in on the meeting on March 19. MIDDLETOWN SMYRNA INDEPENDENT/CRAIG ANDERSON

just hiding. It takes resources to be a good district. It's not going to happen on its own."

Christopher Scuse, another board

member, also expressed regret.

"Being frank and honest, (I) was really disappointed by the margin that it was lost. So, I can understand ... that everyone is getting hurt by the cost of living going up (and) other taxes that you don't have a choice in going up ... and wages not going up at the same rate," he added.

"I completely understand that and think we all feel that, and so what I would say is, we don't take it lightly to ask for a referendum, and if there is another way forward, we try to make it work."

Mr. Scuse went on to say that the district is paying educators \$10,000-\$15,000 less annually than others, making recruiting and retention problematic. He pointed out that there are 40 educator positions unfilled in Smyrna, an issue that may remain due to lower salaries.

"So, that's an unfortunate part, and the scary part is that the ones that suffer are our children," he said.

For her part, superintendent Deborah Judy — whose interim status as the district's leader was removed Wednesday — said she agreed "wholeheartedly" with board members and thanked those who pushed for the referendum in the community.

"I think our campaign was amazing because it highlighted all the incredible things we do in the Smyrna School District, and I know from my

office, it is my pledge to continue to do that, continue showing all the great things we do every single day," she said.

On March 16, the district released a statement that expresses "heartfelt gratitude" to those who supported the referendum.

"Your dedication to our district and belief in the power of education mean the world to us," it continues. "Unfortunately, the referendum did not pass. While this is disappointing, our commitment to providing the best for our students and community remains unwavering.

"We will continue to advocate for the resources and opportunities our schools need to thrive."

If the vote had passed, a Kent or New Castle county property owner with a \$300,000 assessed home value would have paid \$277 annually. This charge would have been in addition to respective property taxes.

Smyrna's referendum failure followed the passage of one for \$4.16 million in capital funding in June 2024. A proposal requesting operating and capital funds was rejected earlier that year.

For information, visit [smyrna.k12.de.us](http://smyrna.k12.de.us) or the district's Facebook page, call 302-653-8585 or email [smyrna-comms@smyrna.k12.de.us](mailto:smyrna-comms@smyrna.k12.de.us).

Staff writer Craig Anderson can be reached at 302-741-8296 or [canderson@iniusa.org](mailto:canderson@iniusa.org). Follow @DSNAnderson on X.



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# Middletown PD seeking 'extra eyes, ears, hands'

## Corporal: Seasonal force a good way to find recruits

By Craig Anderson

Middletown Smyrna Independent

MIDDLETOWN — As seasonal officers, they may fingerprint suspects or take their booking photos.

They could be part of a bike patrol through Silver Lake Park or perhaps traffic controllers during a parade.

With various tasks, from Memorial Day through Labor Day, these summer first responders provide essential support for the Middletown Police Department.

Agency spokesperson Cpl. Steven West — once a Middletown seasonal officer himself — described the assistance as invaluable.

"It's extra eyes and ears for us, in addition to extra hands," he explained.

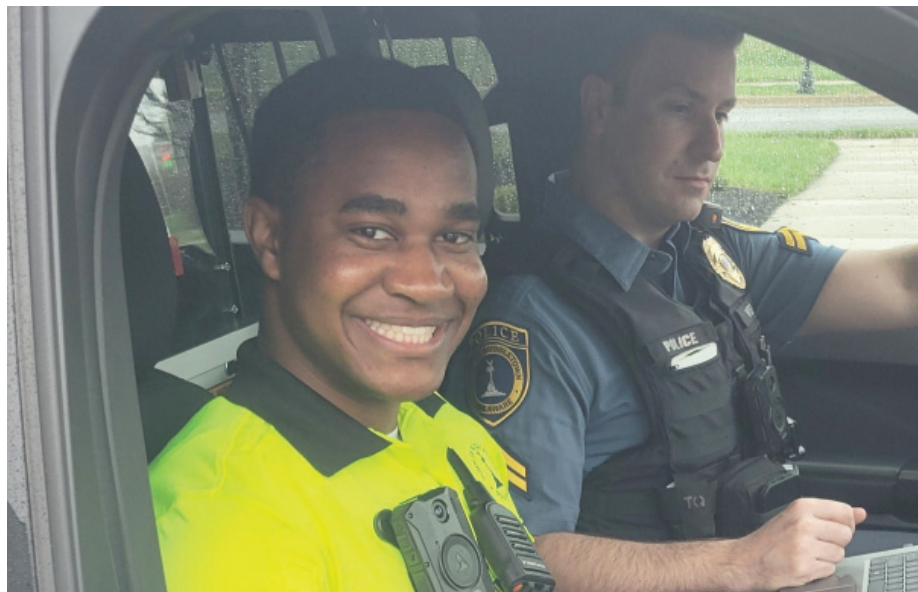
Returning for his third year in 2025, Damian Alexander, 22, says, "There's no day that's the same as another. You go on a bunch of calls. There's no routine day."

A senior criminal justice major at Goldey-Beacom College, Mr. Alexander aims to become a full-time law enforcement officer in the fall. In Middletown, he already feels somewhat like a veteran, though.

"It's nice learning about the police culture," he said. "It's a lot different from what you see on television or social media. You get to know the inner workings of the department."

The experience helps the Middletown native and First State Military Academy graduate with his classwork, too.

"I can always fire questions at officers if I have questions about something in school," he said.



**Damian Alexander began as a Middletown Police Department seasonal officer in 2023 and is returning for a third year this summer.** MIDDLETOWN SMYRNA INDEPENDENT/CRAIG ANDERSON

Cpl. West is one of six individuals on Middletown's year-round 40-member force who previously served seasonally. Six of his colleagues worked with summer programs at other agencies before becoming full-fledged Middletown officers.

"We see this as a long-term investment for future recruits," Cpl. West said.

Lt. Thomas Lancaster, who oversees the seasonal hiring process, said these employees don't have one typical background.

"We like to hire those from within the town, that grew up in the community, but we get them from all over," he said.

The hourly pay is \$18 and may include up to 40 hours of work per week.

This summer, three part-timers are returning, and an undetermined number were sought to join them in early April.

Staff writer Craig Anderson can be reached at 302-741-8296 or [canderson@iniusa.org](mailto:canderson@iniusa.org). Follow @DSNAnderson on X.



**Eric Johnson works a bike patrol as a Middletown seasonal officer.** PHOTO COURTESY OF DAMIAN ALEXANDER



**From left, Middletown officers Sgt. Steven West, Master Cpl. Brett Lankenau and Officer First Class Dominic Scarpone all served as seasonal officers for the department.** MIDDLETOWN SMYRNA INDEPENDENT/CRAIG ANDERSON



**From left, Officer First Class Larissa Ward, Master Sgt. Julia Fabbri and Master Cpl. John Stuart began their tenures with the Middletown Police Department as summer officers.** MIDDLETOWN SMYRNA INDEPENDENT/CRAIG ANDERSON



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## SPORTS



**Smyrna High softball players take the field against visiting Odessa on March 29. The hosts took a 10-0 decision.** SPECIAL TO THE MIDDLETOWN SMYRNA INDEPENDENT/GARY EMEIGH



**Odessa High's Addison Hurst drives a single to right field in the top of the first inning against Smyrna.** SPECIAL TO THE MIDDLETOWN SMYRNA INDEPENDENT//GARY EMEIGH



**The Middletown High girls 1,600 relay team of, from left, Alexia Drummond, Megan Morant, Deanna Rideout, and Shilah Galloway set a school record with a 4:30.03 time at the Delaware Invitational on April 5.** PHOTO COURTESY OF MIDDLETOWN HIGH SCHOOL



**Odessa High's boys' 1,600-meter relay team set a Delaware indoor record with a 3:20.33 time at the New Balance Nationals Indoor meet in Boston on March 16. Pictured, from left, are Keith Jenerette, Ethan Barnett, Derick Belle and Kasai Truitt.** PHOTO COURTESY OF KELLY PARSLEY



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# Springtime stroll through Silver Lake Park



A pair of geese walk past a baseball field at Silver Lake Park in Middletown on April 7. MIDDLETOWN SMYRNA INDEPENDENT/CRAIG ANDERSON

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# Clayton's new police chief knows area well

20-year officer seeking to fill two positions on force

By Craig Anderson  
Middletown Smyrna Independent

CLAYTON — The town's new chief of police plans to be front and center in a community he's familiar with.

Harvey Scott IV, 44, is a lifelong citizen of the 5,500-resident Clayton and has been an officer in its police department for 20 years.

Simply put, he said, "I want to retain the community relationships, the partnerships, we have with the town. I'm from here and want to retain the trust with the community. I've always tried to make sure I'm at as many community events as I can get to because I essentially feel like the face of the department."

Chief Scott was named to his position March 10. He had been serving in an interim role after his predecessor, Carl Hutson IV, was charged with DUI on Jan. 3. Mr. Hutson was subsequently suspended and retired Feb. 28.

Mayor Nick Smith said he's looking forward to working with the incoming law enforcement leader.

"As chief of police, and through the support and guidance of the mayor and council, Chief Scott will lead the department through an exciting and transformative period," he noted.

"As a town, and especially through our police department, we will continue to prioritize building trust and transparency with the public, ensuring that residents have the utmost confidence in the department's commitment to justice, accountability and overall safety."

He added that he's optimistic



Chief Harvey Scott IV is in his 20th year with the Clayton Police Department. For video with this story, visit [baytobaynews.com](https://baytobaynews.com). MIDDLETOWN SMYRNA INDEPENDENT/CRAIG ANDERSON

about the Clayton Police Department's future with the longtime officer at the helm.

"I am confident, along with my fellow council members, that Chief Scott will provide the necessary leadership to the department that our residents can rely on for years to come, while continuing to maintain one of the lowest crime rates in the state of Delaware," he said.

For now, Chief Scott is working to fill two positions in Clayton's 11-officer staff. He said he hopes they are on duty by May.

Also, due to staff restructuring, an audit of all evidence held by the department is ongoing.

While the chief said there's a low

crime rate in his hometown, "we know we have drugs here. Everybody has drug nowadays. We have issues with heroin like everyone else does. It's the biggest (illegal substance) here.

"We don't have a lot of businesses in town, so most of our crimes are domestic-related issues or things officers come across in traffic stops."

When he's not leading the Clayton agency, Chief Scott spends much of his time with his daughter's and his son's ice hockey teams, along with playing for the Delmarva Warriors adult hockey squad.

Staff writer Craig Anderson can be reached at 302-741-8296 or [canderson@iniusa.org](mailto:canderson@iniusa.org). Follow @DSNAnderson on X.



Clayton Police Department Chief Harvey Scott IV oversees 10 officers and is looking to fill two positions. MIDDLETOWN SMYRNA INDEPENDENT/CRAIG ANDERSON



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# Appoquinimink officials tout district's security system

ZeroEyes can pinpoint guns quickly

By Craig Anderson  
Middletown Smyrna Independent

MIDDLETOWN — Appoquinimink School District officials applauded its extra layer of security on Feb. 28.

ZeroEyes technology can identify a gun in the vicinity quickly, then relay that information to school staff and first responders.

The artificial intelligence-based system is in place at Appo campuses for a second year, said Dr. Amanda Conley, the district's safety, security and operations director.

During a seminar at Middletown High School, ZeroEyes representative Brian Stahl pitched the equipment, explaining it to staff from other districts in hopes of getting them to sign on. They would join Delaware State University, which ZeroEyes announced a partnership with Feb. 25.

Mr. Stahl said the system "is constantly looking for weapons without making (an area) feel like a prison at the same time."

A company news release explains, "If a gun is detected, the software will instantly send images to the ZeroEyes Operation Center, staffed 24/7/365 by specially trained U.S. military and law enforcement veterans."

"These experts will verify the threat and dispatch alerts and actionable intelligence, including visual description, gun type and last known location, to local staff and first responders in as fast as 3 to 5 seconds from detection."

According to Dr. Conley, "If ZeroEyes determines there is an actual weapon, local law enforcement, dis-



trict officials and building administrators are notified simultaneously via app notifications, cellphone calls and text messages, and local law enforcement dispatch."

To illustrate this process, a faux gun was used during Friday's demonstration. It was detected almost immediately.

Dr. Conley said the technology is "peace of mind for us to know this is running in the background and knowing that, if something were to happen, in seconds, we can save lives because of what is in place."

"Our district has a holistic approach to safety and security. The ZeroEyes technology is one small piece of this approach," she added.

This effort is paid for by security initiatives embedded in Appoquinimink's most recent referendum.

"It's part of a layered approach to safety and security, which also includes creating a positive school climate and culture, with restorative practices at the center, our threat assessment process, constables in all

buildings, (school resource officers) in high schools, our staff safety training and other key initiatives and focus areas," Dr. Conley continued.

Regarding the cost of ZeroEyes, Appo spokesperson Danielle Pro-Hudson said, "generally, ... organizations are spending less than \$60 per stream per month. Pricing is unique to each district due to their size/number of cameras" — meaning, the more cameras used in a building, the less the cost.

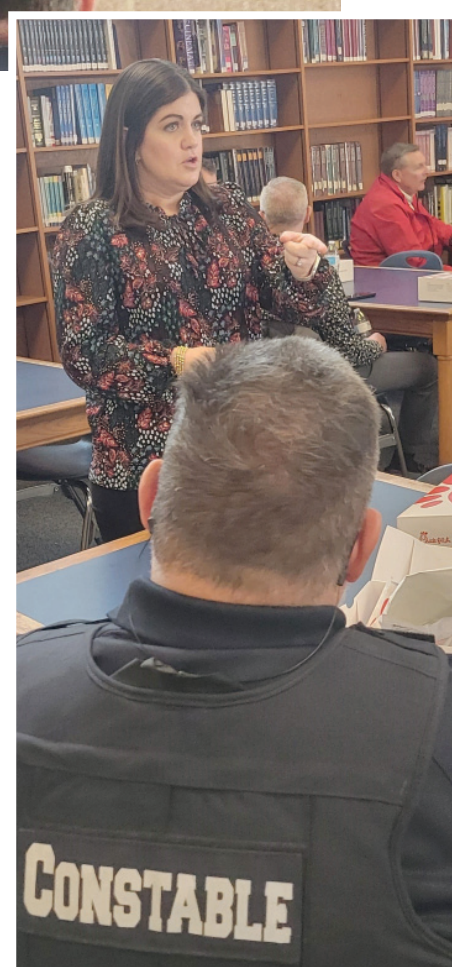
"For safety reasons, we do not share the total number of streams," she added.

Dr. Conley said no information is available on how often the system has been engaged so far.

For information, visit [zeroeyes.com](http://zeroeyes.com).

Staff writer Craig Anderson can be reached at 302-741-8296 or [canderson@iniusa.org](mailto:canderson@iniusa.org). Follow @DSNAnderson on X.

**Appoquinimink School District safety, security and operations director Dr. Amanda Conley speaks about ZeroEyes on Feb. 28.** MIDDLETOWN SMYRNA INDEPENDENT/CRAIG ANDERSON



ZeroEyes representative Brian Stahl explains the security system on Feb. 28 at Middletown High School. For video with this story, visit [bayto-baynews.com](http://bayto-baynews.com). MIDDLETOWN SMYRNA INDEPENDENT/CRAIG ANDERSON



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# Rep. Hensley pleads guilty to DUI, vehicular assault

Middletown Smyrna Independent

WILMINGTON — State Rep. Kevin Hensley, R-Townsend, has entered a plea agreement to resolve charges from a 2024 drunk driving collision, the Delaware Department of Justice announced April 16.

A news release said Rep. Hensley will have his driver's license revoked for a year and serve probation while undergoing required DUI instruction and paying a \$500 fine after pleading guilty to third-degree vehicular assault and driving under the influence.

Rep Hensley's sentence includes a suspended 18-month prison term, the release said. The plea agreement follows an investigation led by the Delaware State Police.

"Drunk driving is dangerous and unacceptably common," said At-

torney General Kathy Jennings in the release.

"No one has an excuse to get behind the wheel while under the influence; ever. It is a miracle no one was seriously injured or worse. I thank our prosecutors and the Delaware State Police for their excellent work in this case."

Rep. Hensley's sentence is consistent with both the statutory sentencing range for the charges against him and with recent sentences against similarly charged defendants, the release said.

Rep. Hensley has a prior conviction for alcohol-related reckless driving from 2009, the release said; under state law, a prior DUI must have occurred within 10 years in order to be considered a second offense.

On Nov. 9, 2024, the release

said, Rep. Hensley, 59, pulled out in front of a gray Ford Fusion while exiting the parking lot of a Valero gas station on Del. 1 in Milford, colliding and causing the other vehicle to roll before coming to rest.

Rep. Hensley and his adult daughter, a passenger in the vehicle, did not sustain injuries. The victim sustained lacerations and complained of chest pain where the airbag hit him, the release said.

According to the release, Rep. Hensley failed field sobriety tests and registered a 0.142 blood alcohol concentration on a portable breathalyzer test and a 0.16 blood alcohol concentration on a subsequent blood draw.

The release said the victim died weeks later from a separate medical issue, attributed by the medical examiner to a stroke and brain tumor.

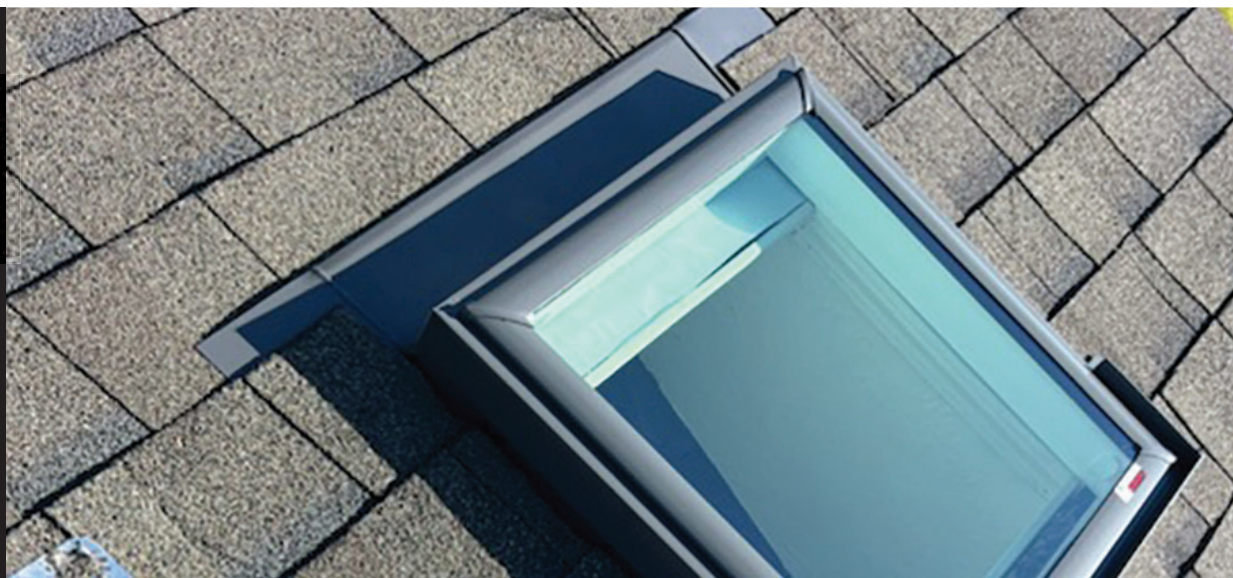


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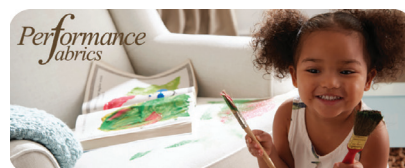
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