



Milford council defers action on Deep Branch Park

By **Brian Trompeter**
Milford Harrington Independent

MILFORD — City Council members unanimously agreed April 14 they were not ready to approve a preliminary site plan for the proposed Deep Branch Park.

In an 8-0 vote, the matter was tabled until a workshop can be held concerning the park, and council can get answers about its cost and the spending requirements of several associated grants.

The park would be at South Rehoboth Boulevard and North Horseshoe Drive, an area outside of city limits. However, on Nov. 30, 2021, the city acquired the 19.4 acres of vacant farmland for \$555,926.

It had been on the market for four years and is zoned by right for public park use.

The purchase was financed using electric fund reserves of \$494,926 — which the city will be reimbursing over the following decade — and a \$60,000 grant from the Delaware Land and Water Conservation Trust Fund.

In 2023 and '24, Milford also received five more grants, worth a total of \$837,500, slated for Deep Branch's development.

Both the Sussex County Planning & Zoning Commission and the Milford Parks & Recreation Advisory Board approved the preliminary plan for the park March 19.

Those designs call for a half-mile stone

• See **Park** on page 10

Learn about avian, aquatic life at DuPont Nature Center

By **Brian Trompeter**
Milford Harrington
Independent

MILFORD — Wildlife and nature aficionados seeking maximum education in an intimate venue should check out DuPont Nature Center at the Mispillion Harbor Reserve.

East of Milford in a former restaurant — near where the Mispillion River and Cedar Creek meet and then head into the Delaware Bay — the center has offered wall-to-wall learning opportunities and sweeping views since 2007.

"The nature center highlights the natural and cultural history of the Delaware Bay shore region, especially in this area around the Mispillion Harbor," said manager Patrick Ruhl, who works for the Fish and Wildlife Division of the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Con-

trol. "That's why most of our exhibits are going to focus on some of our key species, really

highlighting horseshoe crabs and migratory shorebirds."

Those species take

center stage from mid-May through June, when the crabs lay eggs

• See **Center** on page 8



Tommy Cutillo, 3, of Harrington, peers through a viewing telescope at the DuPont Nature Center on April 23, while being held by his mother, Ashley Cutillo. MILFORD HARRINGTON INDEPENDENT/BRIAN TROMPETER

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COMMUNITY

Harrington Logistics to close facility July 1

More than 150 workers
being laid off

By Brian Trompeter
Milford Harrington Independent

HARRINGTON — A major employer will shutter its facility this summer and lay off 151 employees, city officials confirmed last week.

Harrington Logistics announced earlier this year that it plans to shut down its 111 Reese Ave. distribution center July 1.

The site provides cold-storage and refrigerated transportation services. A Maguire Hayden Real Estate Co. sign in front of the building indicates that 220,973 square feet of space is now

available there.

The company's workers are represented by International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 355, based in Baltimore. The union did not return a request for comment.

Harrington Logistics, an interstate freight carrier, is an affiliate of C&S Wholesale Grocers, which declined to provide further details about the Kent County location's closure.

"It is a long-standing practice of C&S Wholesale Grocers not to comment on questions concerning our structure," said Lauren La Bruno, vice president of communications, change management and community relations.

"C&S remains steadfast in our commitment to our transformation



Harrington Logistics will close this facility at 111 Reese Ave. in Harrington on July 1.
MILFORD HARRINGTON INDEPENDENT/BRIAN TROMPETER

strategy, which includes pursuing our strategic set of growth initiatives, increasing our customer base, expanding our investment in the retail market and building on our legacy of 'braggingly happy customers,'" she said, using one of the company's catchphrases.

According to city officials, the property has been in use since 1973, when a warehouse was built there. It was destroyed by a fire during a blizzard in February 1979, but a rebuilt structure opened just 13 weeks later.

It then operated for decades under Burris Logistics, with Harrington Logistics taking it over a few years ago.

Mayor Duane E. Bivans said the

employees to be dismissed this summer have myriad skills but now will need to "make even greater adjustments and sacrifices."

"It is my hope that the company will do all it can to assist with (employees') placement and education, as they chart this process together," he added.

"I further hope that whomever moves into the facility would be extremely mindful of the gifted and talented people whom have made career and family decisions to both work and live in our Harrington community."

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NEWS

Family recovering after fire guts house, barn

By Brian Trompeter

Milford Harrington Independent

LINCOLN — Donations are coming in for a Lincoln family whose barn and house, as well as many possessions in their yard, were badly damaged by fire April 28.

"It's the worst day of my life," said Greg Coin, who lives there with his wife and a friend. "I literally lost everything ... I'm just miserable right now."

Mr. Coin watched from the street April 29 as firefighters continued inspecting his property at 18255 Johnson Road. Workers operating a mini backhoe loader also moved a scorched school bus to make sure the fire wasn't continuing to burn.

The fire was reported shortly before 2 p.m. April 28. Carlisle Fire Co. in Milford responded first and upon

arrival found a 40-by-40-foot barn and two vehicles on fire.

The blaze, which started in a burn barrel and later spread to the property's residence, eventually drew multiple fire companies, Emergency Medical Services personnel and paramedics from Kent and Sussex counties, according to the Delaware State Fire Marshal's Office.

One firefighter was transported to a hospital for treatment of non-life-threatening injuries, authorities said. The fire caused about \$300,000 in damage, they said.

Mr. Coin, who suffered scalp burns during the blaze, was able to save five of the family's dogs, but one died in the fire. He said the fire started in a rear corner of the property and he tried to put out the flames, but was unsuccessful.



This collection of objects, ranging from skeletons and mannequins to a model of Darth Vader, escaped a fire April 28 that ravaged the rest of the property and home at 18255 Johnson Road in Lincoln. MILFORD HARRINGTON INDEPENDENT/BRIAN TROMPETER



A home at 18255 Johnson Road in Lincoln stands in ruins following an April 28 fire that also caused extensive damage to the property's yard and the many objects on it. MILFORD HARRINGTON INDEPENDENT/BRIAN TROMPETER

The approximately 1-acre property is well known to passersby for the massive collection of vehicles, statuary, mannequins and sundry other things in its yard. Many of the items in front of the house were untouched by the blaze, including tombstones, plastic skeletons, a phone booth and a child-sized model of Darth Vader.

"I'm just a collector," said Mr. Coin, who has lived on the property for 23 years. "There was quite a variety. I didn't have just one kind of thing. I knew (the property) became a landmark because of all my stuff."

The American Red Cross is assisting the family, officials said.

A friend has set up a GoFundMe fundraising page to help Mr. Coin and his wife as they cope with the fire's aftermath. As of May 1 at 2:15 p.m., people had donated \$1,962 toward the fund's

\$10,000 goal. For more information, go to gofundme.com/f/help-greg-and-beck-rebuild-after-fire.

Staff writer Brian Trompeter can be reached at btrompeter@iniusa.org.



A machine operator moves a burnt-out school bus April 29 following a fire the previous day that extensively damaged a property and home at 18255 Johnson Road in Lincoln. MILFORD HARRINGTON INDEPENDENT/BRIAN TROMPETER

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COMMUNITY

Tolson beats incumbent Bivans in mayoral race

New mayor will take office June 2

By Brian Trompeter

Milford Harrington Independent

HARRINGTON — There will be a new mayor next month, following challenger Frank Tolson's lopsided victory May 6 over incumbent Duane E. Bivans.

According to unofficial results, Mr. Tolson received 130 ballots and Mayor Bivans 19 — a nearly 7-to-1 margin of victory.

The winner, who currently serves on the city's Board of Adjustment, will take office June 2 for a term that will expire June 4, 2029.

"I just want to get in there, try to move things forward and get everything rolling the way it's supposed to," he said.



Frank Tolson



Duane E. Bivans

Mr. Tolson initially plans to focus on some street issues and increase police presence in Harrington.

The Kent Island, Maryland, native graduated from North Carolina High School in Ridgely, Maryland. He has lived in Delaware for 30 years and in Harrington for 22.

Mr. Tolson has worked in real estate and construction management and, since 2010, has owned a

downtown Harrington business, The Clutter Box, which sells antiques and high-quality used furniture.

That downtown presence has made him a known individual among residents, he said.

"People just want to see some change," the mayor-elect remarked after the vote. "They want a more visible mayor. They know I'm downtown, and (they) can come talk to me at any time."

A harbinger of Mr. Tolson's victory was the prevalence of campaign signs on many Harrington lawns. Mayor Bivans chose not to put out any signage, saying the record of his and City Council's accomplishments should have been ample reason to reelect him.

"It's not always about having a lot of signs," he said. "It's about what has one done."

The outgoing official joined City Council in 2010 and was appointed mayor in August 2020, following the resignation of Anthony Moyer. Mayor Bivans ran unopposed in 2021.

"I would like to think that citizens in the community and the townsfolk would have noticed that we made great strides," he said. "We've done a lot for the town. We were in the weeds and in darkness when we took over. We were moving full steam ahead."

Mayor Bivans added that voter turnout was underwhelming.

"It was somewhat of a shock and surprise, for a small town of our size, that more people (didn't share) an interest than what the number revealed," he said.

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Harrington Parks & Rec looking to expand offerings

By Brian Trompeter

Milford Harrington Independent

HARRINGTON — The Harrington Parks and Recreation Department may be small, but it's gearing up to provide more activities and facilities for residents of all ages, said acting director Douglas Poore.

After dedicating a new children's playground April 4 behind the Parks and Recreation building at 114 E. Liberty St., city officials will prepare for the second construction phase there this summer, which will provide activities for older children in their mid-teens. There

also will be three outdoor pickleball courts, which will supplement the four indoor ones at a nearby building, as well as an outdoor basketball court, Mr. Poore said.

The City Council on April 21 will review plans for Phase 2 of the playground. The state Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control's Division of Parks and Recreation has awarded the city a \$16,775 grant for the project.

In addition, the city has purchased 2.5 acres behind the Parks and Recreation facility, which will be used for a walking trail, open space

for picnics, kite flying and other activities. Long-range plans call for a pavilion and restrooms at the site, Mr. Poore said.

The objective is to "give the city a true green space, to give the citizens a place where they can go free of charge to enjoy a day, enjoy a walk — whatever they choose to do," he said.

"It will be a dawn-to-dusk property," he added. "It won't be lighted."

The pickleball and basketball courts, as well as walking trail, will be financed using federal American Rescue Plan Act funds. Those

moneys, which the federal government began distributing several years ago to help communities recover from the pandemic, needed to be spent or at least encumbered by a deadline earlier this year, Mr. Poore said.

The entire Parks and Recreation complex formerly was a National Guard facility. A drainage ditch behind the Parks and Recreation building is maintained by the federal government and overseen by the Kent County Soil and Water Conservation District, so city officials must jump through a few extra hoops before installing

a culvert there to allow for vehicular access, he said.

The Parks and Recreation Department, which now consists of Mr. Poore and a part-time employee, is hoping to expand offerings for children and adults. Those programs and activities likely will be needed, given the impending shutdown in May of the Centre Ice Rink at Delaware State Fairgrounds, located outside the city limits.

Some of the children who participated in hockey programs there will continue with that sport at facilities



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Patrick Ruhl is the manager of the DuPont Nature Center at the Mispillion Harbor Reserve. MILFORD HARRINGTON INDEPENDENT/BRIAN TROMPETER

Center

• From page 1

on the bay's shore, including around the nature center. Waiting to munch on the eggs will be shorebirds, such as red knots, ruddy turnstones and semipalmated sandpipers, which have flown thousands of miles for this brief stopover before heading farther north.

Red Knot Fest 2025, set for noon to 4 p.m. May 31 at the Slaughter Beach Pavilion, several miles to the south, will celebrate the occasion. The nature center will also host birdwatching sessions during the upcoming mating season, Mr. Ruhl said.

The shorebirds "are expecting to have an all-out feast when they get here," he said. Just like chickens'

eggs, the crabs' eggs are high in protein and healthy fat, "things that can really help (the birds) pack back on a bunch of weight because, after this, most of them are flying straight up to their nesting grounds in the Canadian Arctic," he said.

Born and raised in Sussex County, Mr. Ruhl did stints with Delaware State Parks and the state Division of Historical & Cultural Affairs before joining DuPont three years ago.

He and his colleagues "try to have displays that are interactive, especially with the amount of kids we get here," he said.

Near the entrance, visitors, especially children, can enjoy a playful great blue heron sculpture made of painted metal tools and rebar, then touching a baleen whale's massive

jawbone.

Inside, colorfully illustrated and detailed displays on the building's walls describe the surrounding ecosystem and creatures that inhabit it. A quiz area lets people answer nature questions, then flip up laminated pages toward a camera, which triggers a display with the solutions.

Meantime, video cameras with high-powered lenses livestream birds and other wildlife in the vicinity, so visitors can observe them without disturbing habitats.

And several aquariums let guests see, but not touch, aquatic creatures that live nearby. A long, rectangular tank in the facility's center is new, financed in part by a DuPont Clear Into the Future grant, Mr. Ruhl said.

The tank, which replaced a much older and smaller one, is covered by a tan net to keep people from dipping their hands and arms in. Among its occupants are two horseshoe crabs, Crabcake and Chowder.

Outdoor amenities include a wood-

en deck and picnic area, as well as some telescopes for checking out the bay. Often, large ships muster off the coast before being led farther north by pilot boats, Mr. Ruhl pointed out.

On Wednesday, Harrington resident Ashley Cutillo visited the nature center with her son, Tommy Cutillo, 3, and her daughter, Leah Cutillo, 7. Ms. Cutillo lifted Tommy up to survey the waters through one of the scopes, and Leah took notes on the inhabitants of the new aquarium.

"We had never been here," she said. "We love anything nature-related, including animals and birds."

The DuPont Nature Center, at 2992 Lighthouse Road, is open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays in April and September. May through August, it operates 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays. It is closed October through March.

For information, visit de.gov/dnc or call 302-422-1329.

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The DuPont Nature Center, at 2992 Lighthouse Road, north of Slaughter Beach, offers informative displays and living examples of the area's wildlife. MILFORD HARRINGTON INDEPENDENT/BRIAN TROMPETER

Expand

• From page 6

in Newark as well as Easton, Maryland.

"But of course you have to make that team and now you're competing with other kids in that area," Mr. Poore

said. "You've lost that opportunity here. Do parents want to make that hour-and-what-ever drive both ways and can you do the tryouts and make the team?"

The city's other sports programs, as well as Little

League and Pop Warner youth football, likely will see membership boosts as a result, he said.

The Parks and Recreation Department is considering adding more operational hours, especially in the eve-

nings. This likely would require additional funding and one more employee, but that will be hashed out in budget negotiations this spring, Mr. Poore said.

Mr. Poore, who has served as the agency's acting direc-

tor since last fall, is a lifelong Harrington resident and retired Kent County paramedic who has written five books on local history.

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Park

• From page 1

dust walking trail that will connect with South Rehoboth Boulevard, plus 7.75 acres of flexible space for events, temporary sports fields and possible further expansion.

The plans, produced by the Becker Morgan Group, show a multi-age playground, a 20-by-40-foot picnic pavilion, a 97-space parking lot, a public restroom, six pickleball courts and three basketball courts.

Also, following a presentation of three concepts at an open house last September, more buffer space was added between the park and nearby homes, said Chad Carter, a senior associate with the Becker Morgan Group.

The park would be open from dawn to dusk and not be lighted, he noted.

Even following City Council's potential consent, the proposal

would need permissions from the Delaware Department of Transportation, the Sussex Conservation District and the Office of the State Fire Marshal before being submitted to Sussex County for final approval, Mr. Carter said.

But, on Monday, Milford City Council members voiced some concern. For one, Vice Mayor Jason James Sr. worries about potential drug use and overdoses in the site's restroom.

The location is under Delaware State Police's jurisdiction, not the Milford Police Department's, Police Chief Cecilia Ashe noted.

"Regardless of whether the city owns the property or not, that does not change our legal authorization," she explained. "We are legally allowed to operate within the city limits. Therefore, I think we would be putting ourselves in a predicament, or a position of liability, if we

were to go there."

Further, Mayor F. Todd Culotta believes park visitors may have difficulty exiting onto South Rehoboth Boulevard, given the angled entrance.

He went on to say that Deep Branch Park was originally part of a larger "greenway" concept that did not work out.

"It's not what we originally thought it would be," he said, adding that it was the first time he had reviewed the proposed site plan.

"I think we should step back, reconsider our options (about) maybe whether we can do this somewhere else," Mayor Culotta said.

Councilwoman Lori Connor agreed.

"I think until we address these major concerns and have real, solid answers, I say we sit on the land. ... I would like to see it just be open space," she said.

During Monday's meeting, several residents offered disparate opinions regarding the plan.

"Keep it farmland and remember that agriculture feeds you," said Milford-area resident Annette Billings, against whom City Council dropped a bid to acquire her property via eminent domain last year.

However, former Mayor Archie Campbell, whom Mayor Culotta unseated in the April 2024 election, pressed for the park's creation, saying it has strong support from residents. Citizen surveys taken in 2017 and '19 show that an overwhelming number of respondents favor investment of financial resources in parks and recreational facilities, city officials said.

"Let's not let this opportunity slip by," Mr. Campbell said.

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Preliminary plans for Deep Branch Park in the Milford area call for open space, a picnic pavilion, pickleball and basketball courts, a public restroom and reforestation areas. The Milford City Council tabled the proposal April 14 so it could obtain more information.

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COMMUNITY

Riverwalk Farmers Market producing its 30th year

By Brian Trompeter

Milford Harrington Independent

MILFORD — It's been three decades since folks have flocked to the Riverwalk Farmers Market.

To celebrate, Downtown Milford Inc., which oversees the site, held a ribbon cutting May 3.

In addition to 30th-anniversary merchandise, Shelby DiCostanzo, farmers market chair for DMI, said, "We're going to be spotlighting different vendors and different businesses throughout the season."

About 30 merchants are expected to sell their wares this year — and the offerings won't be just fruits and vegetables.

"We're going to have produce, crafts, woodcrafts and macramé," she said. "We have a vendor who sells

nothing but provisions from France, including jellies, jams, crackers and cheeses. We have a vendor who sells wood-fired pizza."

Others at the market will hawk honey, baked goods, sweet treats, charcuterie, olive oil, fresh-cut flowers, exotic mushrooms and roasted coffee, Ms. DiCostanzo added.

In 2025, organizers will focus on health and wellness, starting with a free tai chi class at 9 a.m. Saturday, taught by Henrietta Chilton and Rachel Susen outside the Milford Public Library.

In coming weeks, there will be yoga classes and wellness demonstrations, plus a revolving booth for small businesses offering health-related services, Ms. DiCostanzo said.

The market will feature live mu-

sic at least every other week, starting with Emily McNatt on opening day. There also will be events revolving around National Strawberry Shortcake Day in June, Independence Day and Halloween.

The market, at 1 S. Walnut St., will be open Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. through October.

But, because Downtown Milford Inc. has permission to operate it through the end of the year, there will be periodic pop-ups, such as on the weekend before Thanksgiving.

"It really helps our local farmers more than anything because it gives them the opportunity to continue selling," Ms. DiCostanzo said. "We've been having mild falls and winters, so our local growers could have broccoli, cabbage — a lot of cold crops —

and no way to sell them."

With the big anniversary, DMI officials will work with the city's archives to obtain more details about the market's past. While it has been hosted in different locations previously, the current spot has been used at least 15 years, she said.

Supported solely by vendor fees, the site is "like the best of our community," Ms. DiCostanzo continued. "We have people who are regulars who have been coming for years. ... It's a great atmosphere, bustling with so many things to see. The talent of all of the vendors is just staggering."

To learn more, visit downtownmilford.org/riverwalk-farmers-market or call 302-839-1180.

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'It's just time': Milford solicitor not seeking reappointment

By Brian Trompeter

Milford Harrington Independent

MILFORD — After a 14-year run, with five city managers and four mayors — as well as more than 600 night meetings — city solicitor David Rutt is ready to pass the torch.

On April 28, Mr. Rutt, who has held the post since January 2011, requested that City Council not reappoint him for another term.

"It's just time" to step down, he said. "There's absolutely nothing negative that I can say about my time with the city. It's just been a wonderful experience."

Some of his highlights with Milford include work-

ing on comprehensive plan updates and a charter revision, Mr. Rutt said.

"I think the city has been very attuned to growing itself in a reasonable fashion," he added. "They've looked at the different needs of the city. It's been controlled, not out of control."

The Sussex County native and 1970 Milford High School graduate holds a bachelor's degree from Washington & Jefferson College and a law degree from the University of Pittsburgh.

Since being admitted to practice law in 1978, he has litigated cases in Delaware and Pennsylvania, as well as

before both states' supreme courts.

Over the years, the Delaware Supreme Court nominated him to serve on the Delaware Bar Foundation, the Board of Professional Responsibility and the Board of Bar Examiners.

Mr. Rutt will continue practicing in real estate, estate planning, business organization and municipal law. His partner at Moore & Rutt, J. Everett Moore Jr., is Sussex County's attorney, and Mr. Rutt will keep advising the county and its Engineering Department.

"I'm definitely not retiring," he pointed out.

A member of Avenue

United Methodist Church in Milford, Mr. Rutt has been chancellor to the Peninsula-Delaware Conference of the United Methodist Church since 2008.

In addition, he is active with the Chamber of Commerce for Greater Milford and has been a Rotarian since 1991.

City officials will now begin the search for Mr. Rutt's successor, which should not take more than a few months, Mayor F. Todd Culotta said. Mr. Rutt will stay in his role until a new solicitor comes aboard, he added.

The mayor noted that Mr. Rutt has provided excellent service to the city.

"His advice has been helpful, and he's always been very clear," he said. "He's always referenced the law or the code or the charter when we are making those decisions."

City leaders want to see Milford grow and accommodate new people, and Mr. Rutt has "always kept us within the guardrails" to ensure those efforts did not stray outside the law, Mayor Culotta said.

"Sometimes, that's telling (council) what we can and can't do, and other times, (it's) telling a developer what they can or can't do," he said.

Staff writer Brian Trompeter can be reached at btrompeter@iniusa.org.



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COMMUNITY

Two variances granted for Milford's 111 N. Walnut St.

Developers seek apartments, commercial sites

By Brian Trompeter

Milford Harrington Independent

MILFORD — The Board of Adjustment May 8 granted lot width and density variances for a proposed mixed-use project at 111 N. Walnut St.

However, it rejected a request to increase the building's height by 17 feet over the maximum allowed.

Applicants Zachary and Marissa King, who filed under "111 N. Walnut LLC," are seeking to build up to 16 one- and two-bedroom "micro" apartments at the vacant 0.09-acre property.

They would also offer commercial uses on the structure's roof, first floor and basement.

The hearing drew about 20 people with mixed opinions.

Terry Rogers of Lincoln, who owns The Milford Times, spoke in favor, saying the city has ample parking nearby and needs more retail options and activities at night.

She also cited the Kings' business and restoration efforts elsewhere.

"When the Kings take on a building, they do it with style and grace," Ms. Rogers said.

On the other hand, Daniel Bond, who is converting the historic Carlisle Firehouse into apartments, said the North Walnut Street building would affect the historic district.

"I do think it is too high and inappropriate to be right on the curb up front," he said.

Mr. Bond added that infill devel-



The owners of 111 N. Walnut St. in Milford hope to build a mixed-use building at the 0.09-acre site, but were denied a variance by the city's Board of Adjustment May 8 for a height increase to 52 feet. MILFORD HARRINGTON INDEPENDENT/BRIAN TROMPETER

opment brings needed jobs and housing, but experts should be consulted to build an appropriate structure in the historic area.

Following the discussion, board members, with a 4-1 vote, granted a variance to allow up to 178 dwelling units per acre at the site, up from the currently allowed 16. The parcel is less than a 10th of an acre.

Explaining his no vote, chair Brendan Warfel said, "I feel the density is just not consistent with the area."

Secondly, the board unanimously approved the variance to allow the lot to be subdivided with a width of 48.2 feet, versus the city's minimum of 50 feet.

But the Kings' request to allow a 52-foot-tall building — rather than the city's maximum of 35 feet — was denied, 5-0.

Mr. King told the board that the

building's parapet would be just 45 feet high and that the extra 7 feet — housing an elevator, stair shaft and improvements for a potential rooftop bar — would be set back from the structure's edges.

He also pointed out several other buildings in Milford, including 70-foot-tall Jesus Love Temple, that exceed the height limit.

Following Thursday's decisions, Mr. King said he had anticipated fifty-fifty odds of being granted all three variances and is "pleasantly surprised" that the density increase passed.

"We'll probably make some small adjustments and come back and re-address the height," he added. "We'll reiterate the historic nature and talk (about) how I think what we're doing is above and beyond in making the

building look as historic as possible."

However, "if we had to cut an entire floor off and stick to the 35-foot (limit), it would probably make the project nonviable," he said.

Mr. King did acknowledge a board member's point that costs increase when constructing taller buildings.

"We haven't dug into those details yet, which is what we will dig into before the next meeting," he said. "A lot of times, we don't want to spend tens of thousands of dollars on engineering costs if we think the board is going to deny an application."

111 N. Walnut LLC has also filed a conditional-use application with the city, which will be heard by the Planning Commission on May 20 and City Council on May 27.

Staff writer Brian Trompeter can be reached at btrompeter@iniusa.org.

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Bug & Bud Festival draws families, costumed revelers

1



Milford Harrington Independent

MILFORD — People of all ages flocked to Milford's Walnut Street and Riverwalk area Saturday, April 26, to take part in the annual Bug & Bud Spring Festival.

Hosted by Downtown Milford Inc., the event featured dozens of vendors plying their wares, music supplied by disc jockeys and ladybug-themed souvenirs everywhere.

The highlight was the parade down Walnut Street, which drew people and pets in insect costumes, a woman on stilts dressed as a monarch butterfly and families with children in strollers and on bicycles.

Three beauty-contest winners also took part and students at Bayside Gymnastics put on a show of their skills.

Event organizers later awarded prizes for best costume in several categories.

4



2



1. Carolann Dreisbach of Felton and her corgi, Bane.

2. From left, Miss Milford Desiree Hazzard, Miss Kent County Mia Demby and Miss Delaware Nova Gaffney pose before joining the parade.

3. Clockwise from upper left, Bayside Gymnastics students Grace Williams, Sophia Clark, Kayla Turner and Addison Hostedler watch as Reagan Fitzgerald does a handstand.

4. Milford residents April Bowman and her daughter Heidi, 4, dressed as spring to take part in the parade.

5. Bug & Bud Spring Festival attendees check out vendors' wares on Walnut Street.

6. Maya Gibbons of Lincoln poses with her pit bull, Django.

7. Jenna Lamb of Harrington, who works for Circus Elements, donned a butterfly costume and walked on stilts.

MILFORD HARRINGTON INDEPENDENT/BRIAN TROMPETER

6



7



3



5





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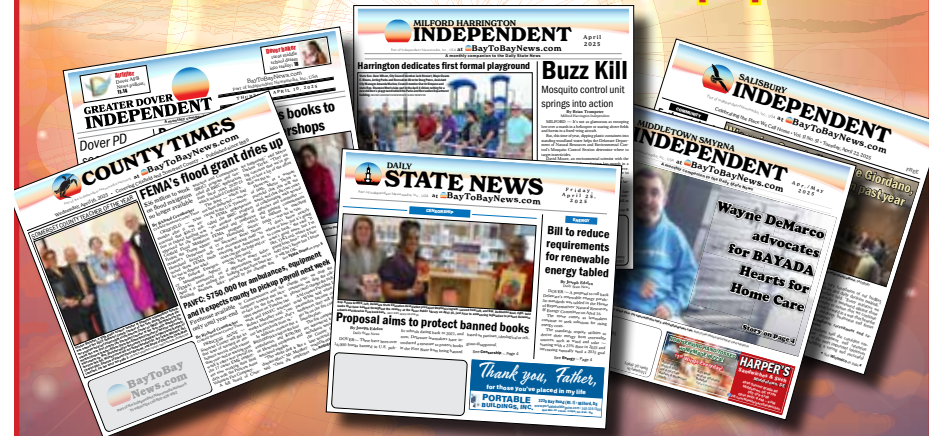
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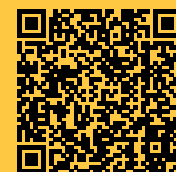


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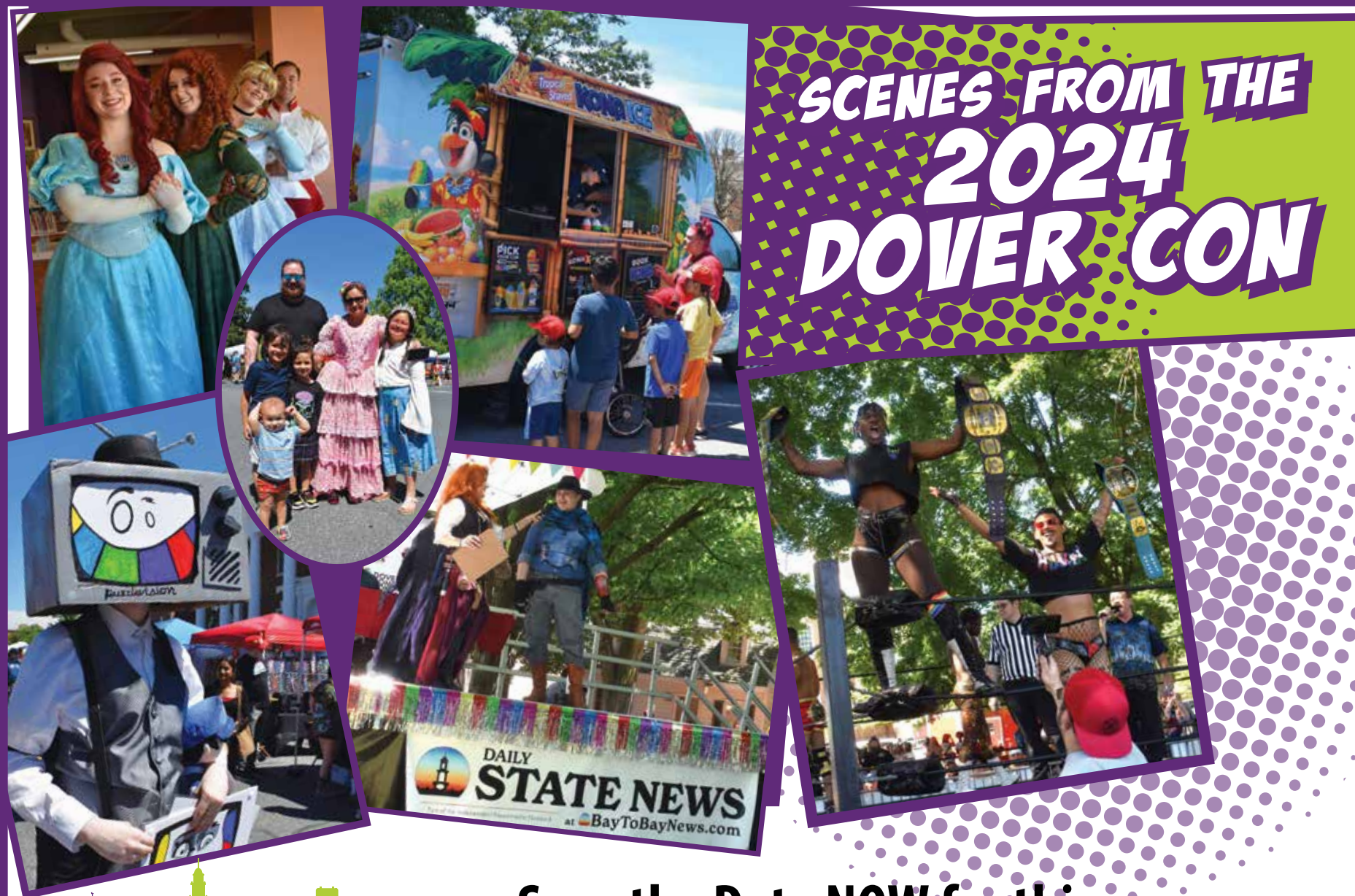
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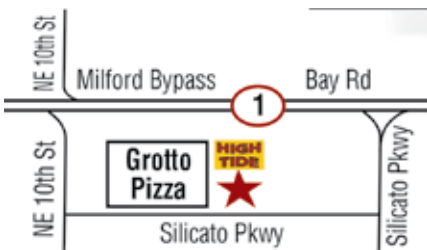
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