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NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2007

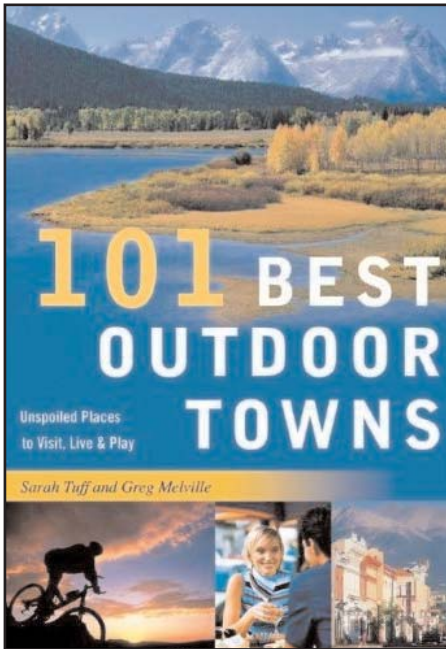
Milford Receives National Recognition

Milford has experienced a great deal of national publicity within the last few weeks and Downtown Milford, Inc. is excited to be a part of it. In 2006, the DMI office was contacted by author Greg Melville concerning a travel guidebook he was putting together with Sarah Tuff. Greg was referred to Dan Bond, owner of the Ladybug Shop & the Towers Bed & Breakfast on N.E. Front Street as well as DMI's consultant. Dan provided the Vermont based author with photographs and background information of Milford.

The specialty travel book is titled "101 Best Outdoor Towns-Unspoiled Places to Visit, Live & Play" and can be purchased at major bookstores across the nation. It is also getting top reviews on Amazon. Remember, if you purchase books from Amazon, go to the DMI website and click on the Amazon tool bar before purchasing so DMI will get a commission on your purchase.

The authors looked nationally to identify the 101 towns recognized in this book as "quick getaways to small, breathtaking locales where

there are pulse-quickening activities but a slower pace of life". Milford holds the distinction of being the only city in Delaware recognized by Tuff and Melville.



ABOVE: Milford is the only Delaware town recognized in this specialty travel book.
BELOW: Visit www.travelocity.com/localsecrets and click on Delaware to see all state winners.

Equally impressive, Travelocity and IgoUgo have named Bug & Bud Festival as one of their 2007 Local Secrets, Big Finds. Ranging from scenic drives and historic towns to fabulous festivals and cultural events, more than 10,000 nominations poured in from around the continent. Bug & Bud Festival, co-sponsored by Downtown Milford, Inc. and City of Milford Parks & Recreation Department, is one of only five Delaware picks and one of 295 nationwide winners identified from Travelocity's editorial team as a best local find.

According to Amy Ziff, Travelocity editor-at-large, "our expansive collection of local secrets is one of the most valuable tools for travelers in search of authentic local flair or unique charm". Bug & Bud Festival visitors are encouraged to call the Local Secrets, Big Finds insider hotline at (877) 771-2007 to share their recent experiences from the festival.

President's Message

by Mitch Crane

Progress is "positive movement". I am happy to report that Downtown Milford, Inc. (DMI) is making progress in all areas of operation. Some of that positive movement is at a speed we are all pleased with; other movement is slower than expected, but is movement nonetheless.

Since my last message, Dan and Rhonda Bond completed their amazing renovation of the "Governor Tharp Building" at the corner of NW Front and Church Streets. This total rehabilitation of one of Milford's most historic structures surprised many skeptics who saw only condemnation and demolition in the building's future. The work was financed in part through monies obtained through DMI. The building now houses offices and the LadyBug Shop on the ground level and five modern apartments on the upper levels.

The week of April 28th-May 4th was "Ladybug Week". It started with the most successful "Bug &



Mitch Crane

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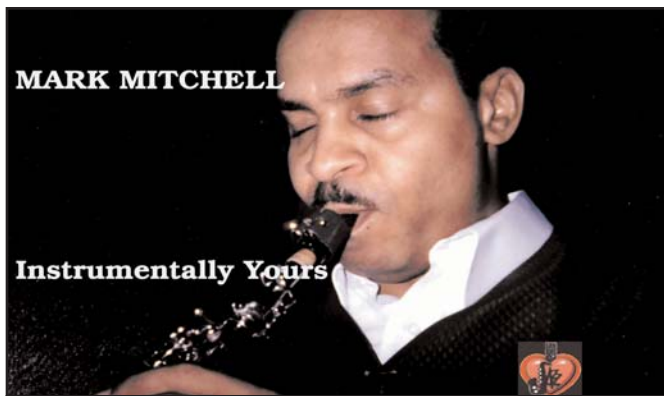
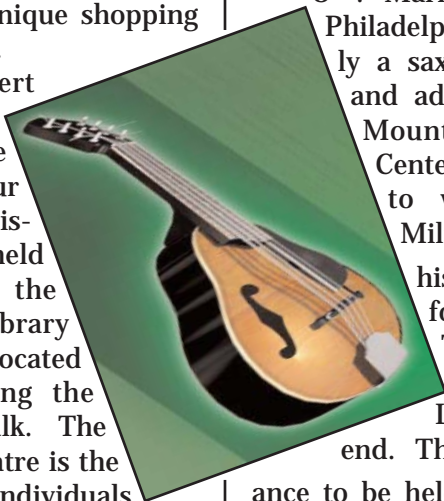


MUSIC IN THE PARK

Downtown Milford, Inc. is pleased to embark upon a new partnership with Milford Public Library. MPL approached DMI concerning their summer concert series titled "Music in the Park". This partnership will allow for "Music in the Park" to be held the second and fourth Wednesdays of June, July, and August; thereby doubling the number of performances offered in 2006. DMI is responsible for the sponsorship of the two concerts in August and marketing endeavors.

While DMI has worked with local and regional live entertainment performances through our Annual Bug & Bud Festival and Holiday Stroll events, this is our first venture into an ongoing event that is truly focused only on the arts. In addition to bringing quality entertainment to the racially and socio-economically diverse Milford population, the "Music in the Park" series will also allow us to showcase downtown's attributes which include a picturesque amphitheatre, Riverwalk and park areas, and a variety of unique shopping and dining options.

Each concert will begin at 7:00 p.m. and last for the duration of one hour without an intermission. They are held just outside of the Milford Public Library which is centrally located in downtown along the Mispillion Riverwalk. The library's amphitheatre is the perfect setting for individuals to bring chairs or blankets and truly enjoy an evening of quality entertainment. Local businesses are invited to participate by staying open during the later hours on concert days and offering specials to



Mark Mitchell is one of many talented musicians scheduled to perform throughout the summer for the Music in the Park series.

attendees. In case of inclement weather, the concerts can be held inside the Library's Meeting Room which easily accommodates 100-150 people.

Performances in July will feature a steel band duo playing calypso, reggae, and soca music on the 11th and lyric soprano and guitarist duo on the 25th.

This August, we have invited jazz and gospel saxophonist, Mark Mitchell to perform on the 8th. Mark is originally from Philadelphia and is currently a saxophone instructor and administrator at the Mount Airy Culture Center. We are thrilled to welcome him to Milford just prior to his August 31st performance at the Tony Williams Jazz Festival over Labor Day weekend. The second performance to be held on August 22nd

will offer Barbara Benedett from Philadelphia and her chamber group featuring clarinet and piano. Barbara's show will feature pops and light classical tunes which are sure to delight the var-

ied group of downtown visitors.

DMI's partnership with MPL will allow the "Music in the Park" series to be much more visible than any one group going at it alone. "Music in the Park" is partially funded through the assistance of Delaware Division of the Arts.

Concert Dates at a Glance

JUNE

20th

Andrus Family Singers

27th

Downtown Dixieland Band

JULY

11th

Steel Band Duo playing Reggae, Calypso & Soca

25th

Lyric Soprano & Guitarist

AUGUST

8th

**Mark Mitchell
Jazz Saxophonist**

22nd

**Pops, Jazz, & Light
Classical**

NEW DOWNTOWN BUSINESS

Country Flowers, located at 42 N. Walnut Street, brings a much-desired service into the heart of downtown. While owners Bill Payton and Todd Bruce were running their first Country Flowers location in Harrington, a mere eight miles away, their Milford customers repeatedly encouraged them to move to Milford. In January of 2007, Bill and Todd opened their second shop here and have been on the go ever since.

With five employees and extra hires for holidays, Country Flowers' staff stays busy with the demands of every season. The uniqueness of their arrangements and the ability to make each design special for the intended recipient is just one reason that this small business is successful.

Bill Payton has over 15 years experience in the floral business and doesn't remember a time when he wasn't growing, cutting, or arranging flowers. He credits his grandmother for encouraging his passion. Potential customers might be surprised to find that this downtown shop is not only a place for exceptional floral finds, but also offers a wide selection of country



ABOVE: Country Flowers staff Bill Payton, Nita Watkins, and Todd Bruce.

décor, candles, balloons, and silk arrangements.

In fact, Country Flowers has really thought of everything when it comes to gift giving options. When looking for something less traditional than

flowers, ask the staff about their candy bouquets, junk food, or fruit baskets. Health conscious shoppers need not fret; they will gladly arrange a gift tailored to your loved one. Consistency and class pays off for this local business, just ask their growing customer base, many of whom come from referrals.

Country Flowers is open M-F 9 a.m.-4 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m.-12 noon. If you don't have time to visit the store location, they will happily take your order over the phone and arrange for delivery. Call the shop at (302) 424-4457.

EXISTING DOWNTOWN BUSINESS

Marvel Agency, Inc. has been a downtown staple on Walnut Street for 54 years. Since 1977, brothers Harvey Marvel, Jr. and Randy Marvel have owned and managed the business founded by their father, Harvey Marvel, Sr. Their current location, 15 N. Walnut Street was formerly the Milford City Hall and Police Station.

During the 1960's and 1970's, Milford's downtown was the only retail and business center in the area. Marvel Agency maintained in place despite a decline in downtown's popularity during the 1980's and within the last 10 years have seen the re-birth of a lively busi-



ness center with offices, cultural institutions, and specialty retail shops. Owner Harvey Marvel cites the commitment of the city government to the streetscape and Riverwalk improvements as a critical component of the current revival.

Marvel Agency is an Independent Insurance Agent, selling all forms of personal and business insurance as well as a Real Estate broker, handling sales and rentals of all types. Their exceptionally trained and experienced staff is comprised of 27 employees, each bringing a different achievement and professional educational designation to the team. Several staff members have multiple decades of experience in their respective fields.

Stop by Marvel Agency during their office hours Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m.-12 noon. Or call them at (302) 422-9626 to schedule an appointment. Visit their website at www.marvelagency.com to learn more about their business.

LEFT: Marvel Agency, Inc. located 15 N. Walnut Street.

Pres. Message

(Continued from Page One)

Bud Festival” ever and culminated with the “Ladybug Gala & Auction” at which many thousands of dollars were raised for DMI and our partner, the Mispillion Art League—all through ticket sales and the auction of the 15 ladybug art forms that had been on display in local businesses prior to the Festival.

Slower progress, yet progress still, is being made in our two main projects. In partnership with the City of Milford, DMI hopes to complete the process of making Milford a “Main Street” community as soon as the state Main Street Office prepares its new application and schedules a training session for prospective members. While DMI emulates a traditional main street community in its current operations, membership will bring much-needed consultative advice to help us better

manage in the future. Information about the nation-wide Main Street Program can be found on their website at www.mainstreet.org.

Slow but sure progress is also being made on the extension of the “Streetscape” project on N.E. Front Street, from Washington Street to the renovated Riverwalk Shopping Center. This project will involve the burying of utility lines, removal of utility poles, rebuilding the street surface, and creating sidewalks, plantings, benches, and lighting similar to what we did in the first phases on Walnut and N.W. Front Streets. This project will be funded through the generous help of our local state legislators, Senator Gary

Simpson, Representative V. George Carey, and Representative Bob Walls and the in-kind contributions of the City of Milford.

Finally, you may have noticed the unruly bushes along the sidewalks in downtown have been removed by the City. In the near future they will be replaced by annuals and perennials chosen and paid for by DMI’s streetscape improvement fund.

All this work is carried out by our dedicated Executive Director, Beth Durham, and our many volunteers. Ongoing work and future projects will need additional volunteers. Please contact us if you can give a lot or a little of your time.



**Downtown
Farmers’ Market
OPEN
Every Saturday
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Walnut Street
at the Riverwalk**



7 South Washington Street
Milford, De 19963

www.DowntownMilford.org
dmi@downtownmilford.org
(302) 839-1180