



Milford City Hall Council Chambers 201 South Walnut Street Milford DE 19963

## CITY COUNCIL AGENDA Wednesday, March 11, 2026

Attendees are welcome to participate virtually as well. Public Comments are encouraged on the agenda items designated with a ©. Virtual attendees may alert the City Clerk that they wish to speak by submitting their name, address, and agenda item via the Zoom Q&A function or by using the Raise Your Hand function during the meeting. Those attending in person may comment when the floor is opened for that purpose. All written public comments received prior to the meeting will be read into the record.

*This meeting is also available for viewing by the public by accessing the following link:*

<https://milford-de.zoom.us/j/95859380584>

or

<http://www.cityofmilford.com/553/Watch-Public-Meetings>

*Members of the public may also dial in by phone using the following number:*

Call 301 715 8592 Webinar ID: 958 5938 0584

**6:00 PM**

### **15-Minute Public Comment Period\***

Virtual attendees must register prior to start time of meeting by calling 302-422-1111 Extension 1300 or 1303, or by sending an email to [cityclerk@milford-de.gov](mailto:cityclerk@milford-de.gov) and providing your name, address, phone number, and item name and/or description you wish to comment on. Persons in attendance wishing to speak must sign up prior to the start of the Council Meeting.

## **WORKSHOP**

	Page
<b>1. Public Comment</b>	
<b>2. Call to Order – Mayor Todd Culotta</b>	
<b>3. Discussion: DE Office of Marijuana Commissioner</b>	
<b>4. Annual Report &amp; Funding Request / Carlisle Fire Company</b>	
a. <a href="#">CFC FY27 Budget Request</a> ©	3
<b>5. Annual Report &amp; Funding Request / Milford Public Library</b>	
a. <a href="#">Annual Presentation Milford City Council March 10, 2026</a> ©	17

- 6. **Annual Report & Funding Request / Greater Milford Chamber of Commerce**
- 7. **Annual Report & Funding Request / Milford Museum**
  - a. [Milford Museum Presentation](#)  26
- 8. **Annual Report & Funding Request / DMI**
  - a. [DMI City Update March 2026](#)  43
- 9. **Adjournment**

All items on the Council Meeting Agenda are subject to a potential vote.

ALL SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE CITY CLERK IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT NO LATER THAN ONE WEEK PRIOR TO MEETING. NO ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED, DISTRIBUTED, OR PRESENTED AT MEETING ONCE PACKET HAS BEEN POSTED ON THE CITY OF MILFORD WEBSITE. ANY MATERIALS UTILIZED DURING THE MEETING MUST BE INCLUDED IN THE COUNCIL PACKET AND ACCESSIBLE BY AUDIO AND VISUAL MEANS PURSUANT TO 29 Del. Code, Chapter 100, §10006A(c)(5).

\*Time Limit is three minutes per speaker, not to exceed a total of fifteen minutes for all speakers prior to start of meeting/workshop.

© Designated Items only; Public Comment, up to three minutes per person will be accepted.

030426

# Carlisle Fire Company

## Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Request



Presented By:

Fire Chief Brennon A. Fountain  
Treasurer/Past Chief Joe Mriss

# Mission

It is the mission of the Carlisle Fire Company to both volunteer and career staff to preserve life and property; promote public safety; and foster community support services in a professional matter.

# Core Values of the Carlisle Fire Company

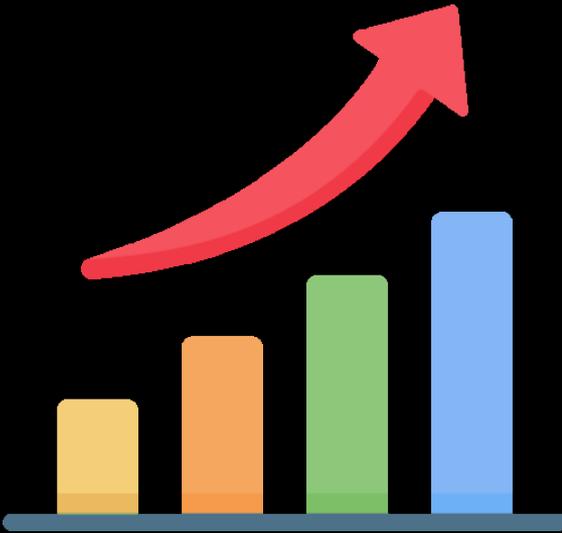
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- Prepared for Duty
- Serving With Integrity
- Responding With  
Compassion
- Committed to  
Professional Excellence

# Community and Outreach Event Photos



# City of Milford Population Increase (5-year view)



Year 2024 - 14,079 (estimated)

Year 2023 - 13,289 (estimated)

Year 2022 - 13,018 (estimated)

Year 2021 - 12,346 (estimated)

Year 2020 - 11,310 (estimated)

# CFC Fire Operations (Change from Year 2025 to 2024)

**FIRE Total for Year 2025 - 836 (increase 17.3% from previous year)**

**FIRE Total for Year 2024 - 713**

Fire calls within city limits - 547 (65.4%)

Fire calls outside of the city limits - 289 (34.6%)

Fire calls in Sussex County - 390 (46.7%)

Fire calls in Kent County - 446 (53.3)

# CFC EMS Operations (Change from Year 2025 to 2024)

**EMS Total for Year 2025 - 836 (increase 11.2% from previous year)**

**EMS Total for Year 2024 - 5,069**

**EMS calls within city limits - 4,075 (72.3%)**

**EMS calls outside of the city limits - 1,561 (27.7%)**

**EMS calls in Sussex County - 3,278 (58.1%)**

**EMS calls in Kent County - 2,358 (41.8%)**

# Fire Apparatus and Structures (YTD)

3 - Fire Pumpers

1 - Tower Ladder

1 - Heavy Rescue Truck

1 - Pumper Tanker

1 - Brush Truck

1 - Utility Truck

2 - Command Vehicles

3 - Fire Police Traffic Control Vehicles

2 - Marine Units

4 - Ambulances

1 - ATV

2 - Fire Stations (Main and Substation)

## CFC EMS Staffing and Shift Coverage

2015 - 2 full-time employees, 5-6  
part-time employees/volunteers

- Administrative Secretary –  
supervise EMS career staff

2025 - 9 full-time employees, 18  
part-time employees/volunteers

- EMS Supervisor – supervise EMS  
career staff

## EMS Shift Coverage

2015 - one EMS crew  
providing 24/7 coverage

2025 - two EMS crew  
providing 24/7 coverage

# CFC EMS Fleet and Buildings

## EMS Fleet

2015 - 2 Ambulances

2025 - 4 Ambulances

## Buildings

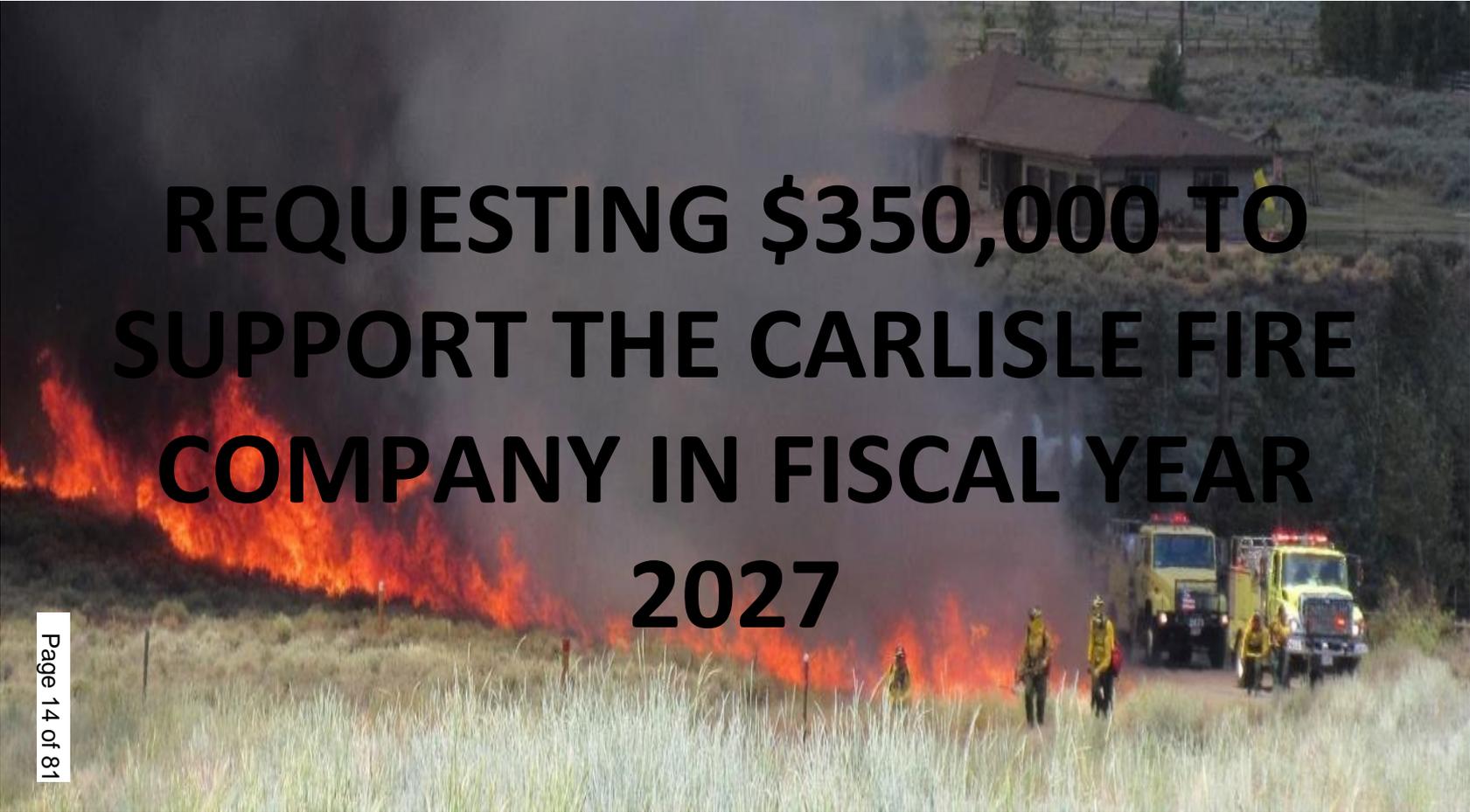
2015 - Main firehouse and  
Administrative Office/EMS Quarters

2025 - Main firehouse and  
Administrative Office/EMS Quarters,  
EMS Pole Building (acquired 2018),  
and Substation (acquired in 2025  
with renovations underway)

# Challenges and Impacts

- Recruitment and Retention – Volunteers
- Increased Community Demand for Volunteers and Career Staff
- Increased Personnel and Benefits Costs
- Increased Operating and Overhead Expenses





**REQUESTING \$350,000 TO  
SUPPORT THE CARLISLE FIRE  
COMPANY IN FISCAL YEAR  
2027**



# Questions and Comments?



**THANK YOU FOR THE  
OFFICERS AND MEMBERS  
OF THE CARLISLE FIRE  
COMPANY !**

# Milford PUBLIC LIBRARY

*Annual Presentation:  
Milford City Council*

Yanelle Powell  
President, MPL Board of Trustees

March 10, 2026



# FISCAL YEAR 2025

July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

## Community Impact Statistics



**138,587**  
**Library Visitors**



**137,878**  
**Items checked out**



**14,551**  
**WIFI & computer uses**



**941**  
**Programs, workshops, & classes**



**17,653**  
**Program attendees**



**1,770**  
**New library cards issued**



Income

City of Milford	\$28,000
Kent County	\$235,028
State of Delaware	\$145,546
Sussex County	\$250,290
Donations & Gifts	\$26,065
Operating Income	\$15,409
Other Income Grants, Investments, Fundraisers	\$94,539
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$794,877</b>

Expenses

Service Contracts	\$20,979
Building Maintenance	\$77,785
Interior Maintenance	\$12,009
Library Materials	\$37,003
Operations	\$34,390
Supplies	\$18,913
Programs	\$36,785
Salaries, wages, & benefits	\$527,320
Other Expenses	\$29,693
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$794,877</b>

# FISCAL YEAR 2025 FINANCIALS

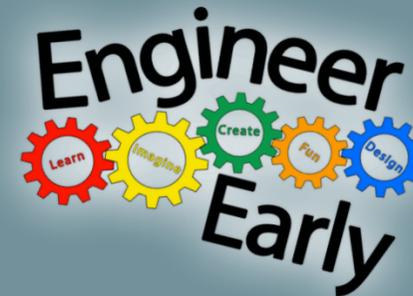
July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025



# FISCAL YEAR 2026: TODAY

## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS HIGHLIGHTS:

- Milford Museum: American History Series
- Music School of Delaware: Children & Teen Programs
- Mispillion Art League: Children & Teen Programs
- Milford School District: Milford Reads Year Round
- Food Bank of Delaware: Weekly food bags for the homeless; Summer Read and Feed for Children & Teens
- Milford Advocacy for the Homeless: Helping Hands events
- Nehemiah Gateway: Low-income, free tax preparation
- Milford Lions' Club: Teen Hygiene Station/To-Go Bags
- Polytech Adult Education: ESOL Classes and Computer Skills Training
- Sylvan Learning Center: Free SAT Prep Tests
- Courageous Hearts: PAWS and Breathe series



## STATE AGENCY & NATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS HIGHLIGHTS:

- DE Health & Social Services: Workforce Development and Social Service Resource Access and Connection
- DE Department of Labor: Workforce Training and Job Fairs
- Health 2 Go Mobile Health Clinic: Common Screenings, Vaccinations, and Testing
- Blood Bank of Delmarva: Blood Drives
- Brooklyn Public Library: Book-Banning History Series
- Engineer Early: Grab-and-Go STEM kits for Children
- DE Trauma Response for Youth: Family Access to Mental Health Services
- DE Division of the Arts: Creative Aging Program

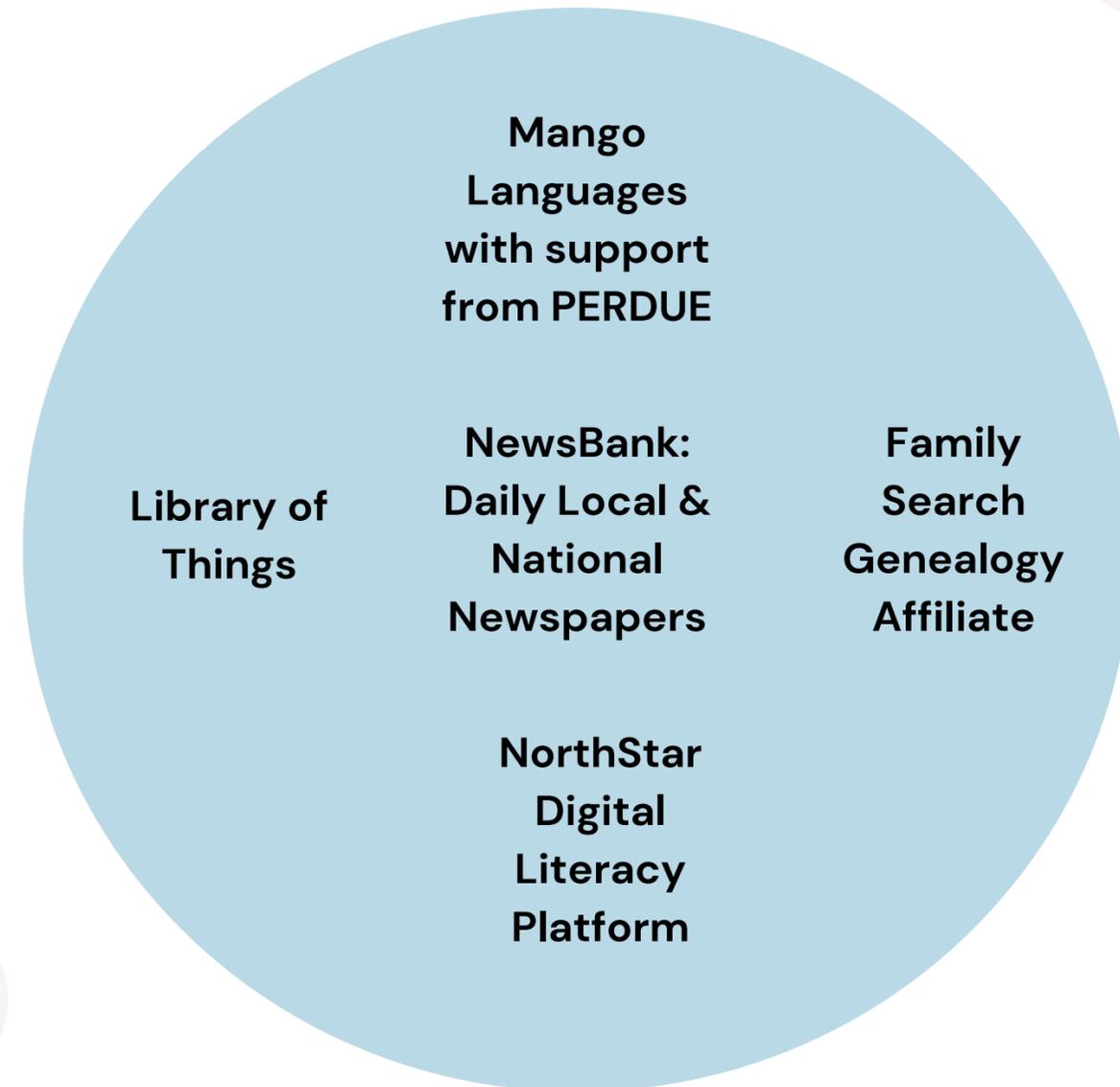
# FISCAL YEAR 2026

TODAY

## New Programs: Highlights



## New Resources: Highlights





# 2027: MPL'S CENTENNIAL!

HONORING OUR PAST: CELEBRATING OUR FUTURE

# CENTENNIAL TRANSFORMATION PROJECT

Project Description: A facility renovation will address the following issues:

- Failing HVAC Equipment
- Insufficient Electrical Access Points
- Problematic bathrooms
- Separation of Youth Services Departments
- Lack of Study Rooms & Collaboration Spaces
- Air & Water Infiltration Issues
- Poor Sight Lines in the Stacks
- Dedicated Friends Store
- Heavy, Outdated Furnishings
- Poor Signage
- Inadequate Staff Working Spaces
- Facility Inflexibility

Project Partners:



Current Project Schedule:

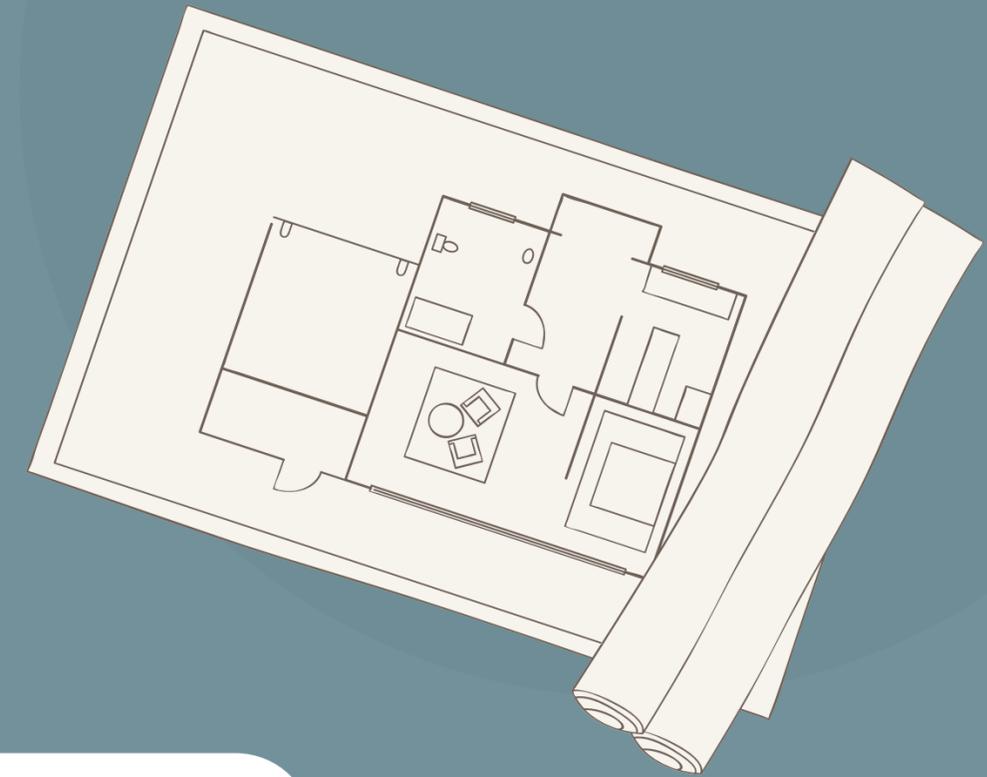
- Whiting-Turner Mobilization: 07/2026
- Interior Demolition: 09/2026
- Interior Construction: 11/2026
- FF&E Installation: 03/2027
- Whiting-Turner Closeout & Turnover: 06/2027

# CENTENNIAL TRANSFORMATION PROJECT

Project Cost: \$4,900,000

Cash in-hand/Available for immediate withdrawal: \$3,303,905

Pending Requests: \$2,172,841



**Federal ARPA Funds:**  
**\$900,000**

**Community Reinvestment  
Funds:**  
**\$902,500**

**Delaware Bond Bill:**  
**\$1,461,405**

**Local Support:**  
**\$40,000**



# CELEBRATE THE CENTENNIAL!



The Milford Public Library requests \$30,000 in support from the City of Milford for Fiscal Year 2027.

A 7% increase from Fiscal Year 2026 (\$28,000).

MPL's new facility will offer expanded services and spaces that will benefit the Greater-Milford Community and its many residents and visitors.

Please show your support and enthusiasm for our future.

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Thank You. Questions?















*Milford Museum*

American History Series Presents:

Glamour Girls: The Portrayal of Women  
in World War II Propaganda Posters,  
Films, & Vogue Magazine



At the Milford  
Public Library

Saturday  
March 14, 2026  
1:00 PM



Marguerite Hoyt

WWW.MILFORDDEMUSEUM.ORG  
TOM@MILFORDDEMUSEUM.ORG











# Schine's NEW MILFORD THEATRE

Air - Conditioned

## GALA OPENING WEEK PROGRAM

SMASH PREMIERE

SHOW ENDS

FRIDAY

**RED SKELTON**  
as

SWEEPING THE TOWN WITH GALES OF LAUGHTER!

The **FULLER BRUSH MAN**

Get Only

2 SMASH FEATURES!

June 26





- **June 25, 2025 Tom Summers Interview with Garry, Rachel and Bill Grier**
- **Memories of Milford**
- **3:05 Tom Summers:** What's your actual earliest memory you have of living here in Milford?
- **Garry Grier:** Growing up on Delaware Avenue near you. Skip Jones' and \_\_\_\_\_ lived across the street from us. And probably within a couple of blocks about 100 to 75 kids all within a year or two lived one way or another, doors were never locked, you were in everybody's house.
- **Summers:** Is that house still there
- **Garry:** Yeah. Bill Bullock lives in it now, 6 Delaware Avenue. I had to speak at Jimmy Cressent's funeral. And I made a comment, we didn't realize it at the time, that we grew up in heaven. We had the ballfield, the middle school, the whole thing, to play in. On Clark Avenue, next street over, Jack Burris and Doc Dobson bought this farm, he had a bunch of cows, he sold it to them, and they turned it into this sports field. So, behind Skip Jones' house and the Burris', between Clark Avenue and Delaware Avenue, we had all those fields to play on, and the middle school fields to play on. And there were kids everywhere. You were in everybody's house, and mom, it would be time for dinner, she'd call the Jones, Gibson's, Dobson's, they had to be somewhere around here. It was pretty nice.

**MILFORD MUSEUM AND LANDMARKS COMMISSION INC**  
**ANNUAL BUDGET**  
**July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026**

ACCOUNT	TOTAL
Income	
City Subsidy	40,000.00
Dividend Income	1,800.00
Donation	5,000.00
Event Income	
HippieFest	18,000.00
MardiGras	6,000.00
Grant Income	11,000.00
Interest	0.00
Membership Dues Income	5,500.00
Other Inc	0.00
Royalties	50.00
Sales Income	300.00
<b>Total for Income</b>	<b>\$87,650.00</b>
Expenses	
Advertising	550.00
Bank and Credit Card Fees	850.00
Compensation - Staff Wages	35,000.00
Computer and Internet	1,600.00
Dues & Subscriptions	300.00
Event Expense	
Hippie Fest Cost	6,000.00
Mardi Gras	3,500.00
<b>Total for Event Expense</b>	<b>\$9,500.00</b>
Exhibit Supplies	4,000.00
Maintenance	500.00
Meeting Expense	500.00
Office Expense	2,000.00
Payroll Expenses	200.00
Postage Expense	300.00
Speaker Fee	3,000.00
Supplies	1,500.00
Taxes	
Franchise Tax	25.00
Payroll Taxes	2,700.00
<b>Total for Taxes</b>	<b>\$2,725.00</b>
Utilities- Electric	4,800.00
Utilities - Heating Oil	5,000.00
Utilities- Internet/Phone	2,200.00
Utilities- Water/Sewer	2,400.00
Video & Media Production	2,000.00
<b>Total for Expenses</b>	<b>\$78,925.00</b>
<b>Net Operating Income</b>	<b>\$8,725.00</b>



# Council Update

Annual Report – 2025  
March 11, 2026



# Downtown Milford Inc. Mission



POWERED BY  
VOLUNTEERS



COMMITMENT TO INFUSE  
NEW LIFE IN DOWNTOWN



UNITED COMMUNITY

# New Board Members



- Cathy Cohee
- Desiree Hazzard



# Executive Board

- Terry Rogers, President
- Neyda Albarran, Vice-President
- Martha Gery, Secretary



## Board Members At Large

- Curt Gaul
- Darron Johnson-Wilson
- Dwayne Powell
- Michele Webb





Sade Truiett

Main Street  
Accredited



# Main Street Principles

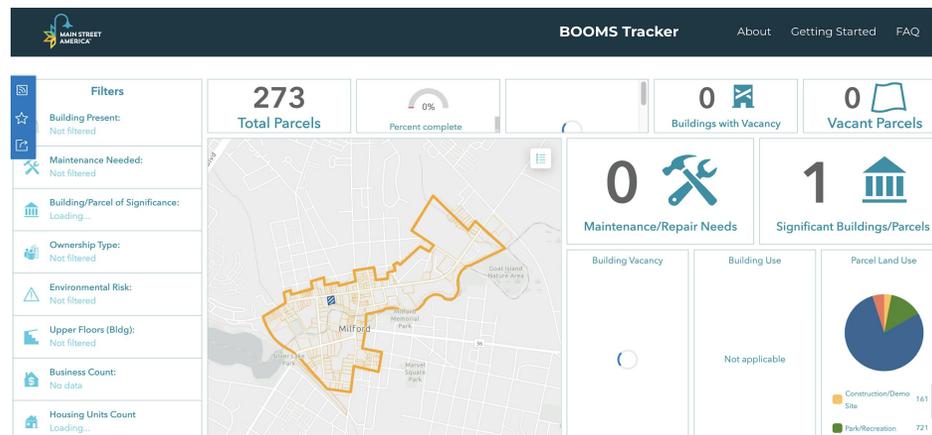
- Design
- Economic Vitality
- Organization
- Promotions



# Budget

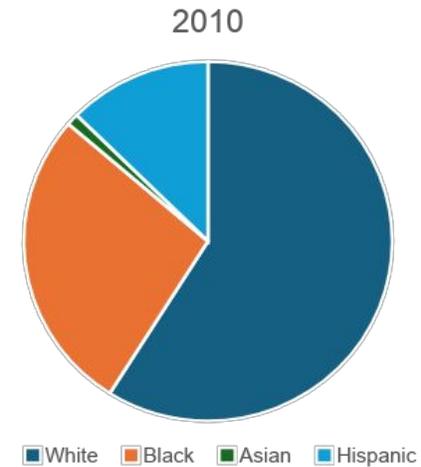
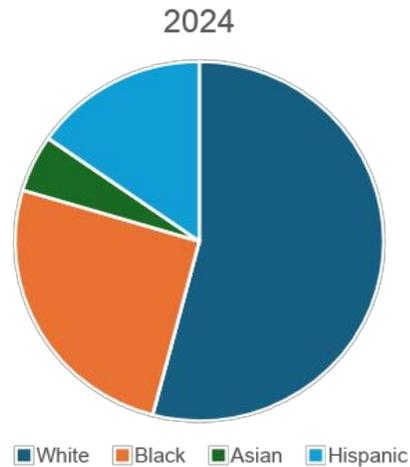
# Economic vitality

BOOMS Tracker



# Milford Business Demographics

- Population in 2010 – 9,559; in 2024 – 14,079





# Business Demographics

- 187 Women Owned Businesses In 2022
- 59 Minority Owned Businesses in 2022



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# Five for Five Awning and Façade Project

# Bike Racks





# Design



# Promotions

- Bug and Bud Festival
- First Friday
- Holiday Stroll

- Partnership Events
- MLK Celebration
- Comicon
- City Tree Lighting





# New Events

- Eat in the Street
- Chef's Challenge



# Santa House



# Strategic Plan

Economic Vitality

Design and Placemaking

Promotion and Marketing

Organization and Partnerships

Multi-Cultural

Thanks to Michele Webb for her work on the Strategic Plan

DMIS

ECONOMY  
VITALITY

Build a Resilient Diverse  
Downtown Economy



# D E S I G N



# DMIA PROMOTION

- Position downtown Milford as a premier destination for culture, shopping, dining and events



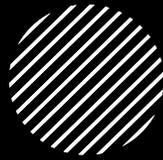
- Strengthen Downtown Milford Inc.'s capacity to lead downtown revitalization



MULTI-CULTURAL

- Commit to inclusive outreach that reflects Milford's diverse community

# Organization



- IMPLEMENTATION AND MEASUREMENT
- Set priority projects aligned with this plan
- Performance indicators
- Businesses added/retained downtown
- Attendance at events and programs
- Volunteer hours and support growth
- Private/public investment leveraged

# Trends Impacting Downtown

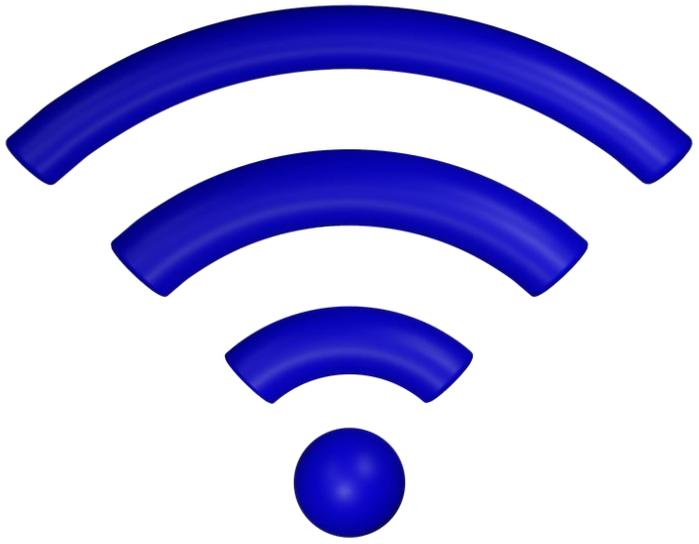
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- Visitors value experiences over traditional retail
  - Shop local continues to grow but shoppers look for digital convenience
  - Visitors seek authentic cultural, historic and eco-tourism experiences
  - Smart downtowns use digital tools with strong social media presence
  - Millennials and Gen Z want vibrant, diverse downtowns while seniors require accessibility and safe mobility
  - Outdoor dining, flexible street use, murals and festivals are economic drivers
- 



# DMI Branding

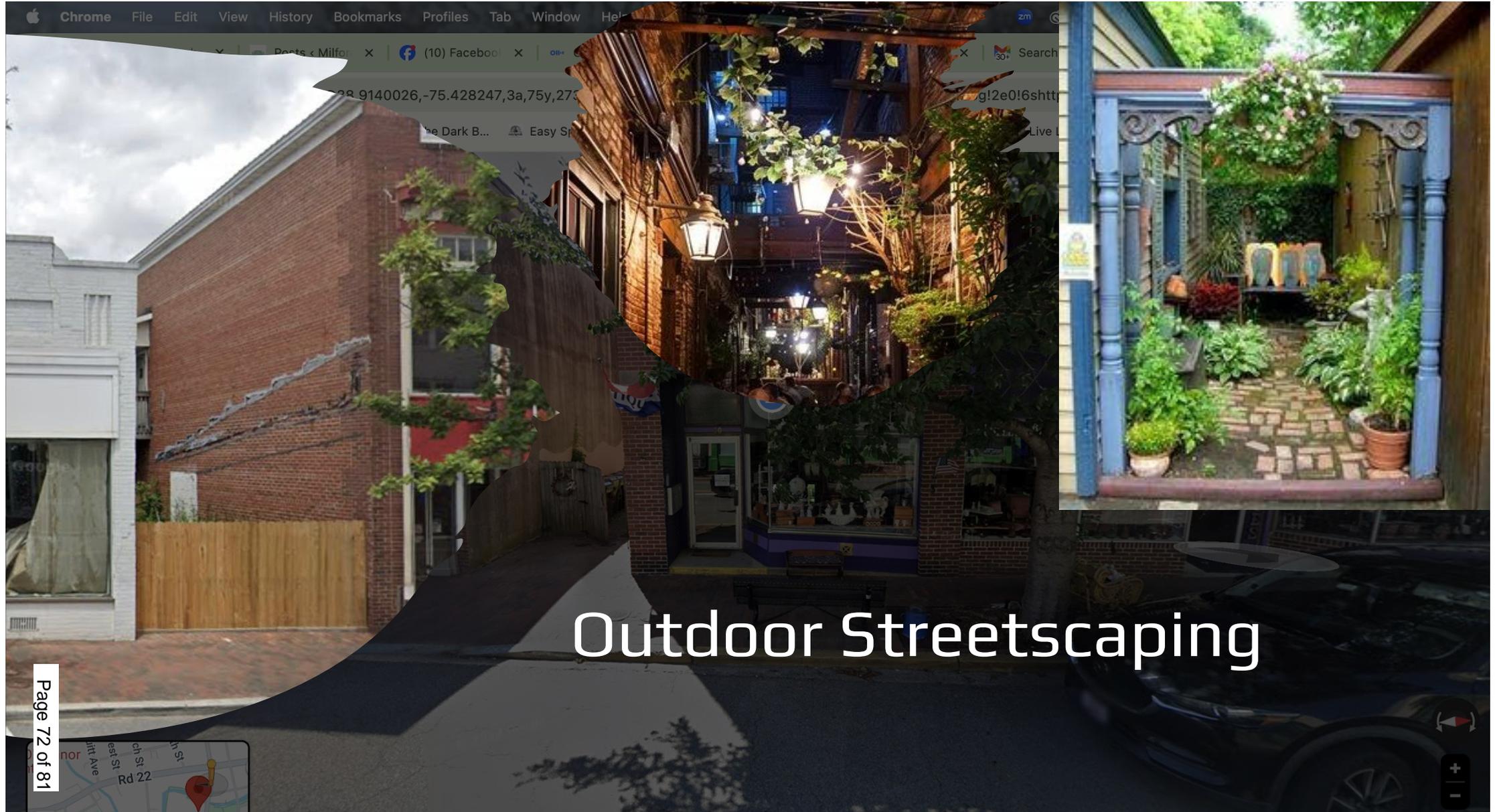






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# Multi-Generational Events



# Outdoor Streetscaping

# Farmer's Market





Multi-Cultural



# The Milford Store

- Milford Merchandise
- Hats, shirts, drinkware, stickers, postcards and more





# Downtown Milford Stats

# Economic Impact

DMI events have generated as much as \$6.7 million in the Milford economy

# July 4

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# Funding Request

\$50,000



# Just a Reminder...

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# Questions?

