YEAR IN REVIEW

Progress
• Energy
• Manufacturing
• Health care
• Research
• Aviation
• Military
• Hotels and tourism
• Downtown progress
• Schools
• Recreation
• Retail
• Chamber connections
Garrison Energy Center

- Calpine Corporation project
- Arrival of heavy equipment in October 2013 in Leipsic
- $400 million project
Garrison Energy Center

- 309-megawatt natural gas plant under construction at Garrison Oak Technical Park
- 250 construction jobs
- 16 permanent operating positions
- On schedule for a commercial operation date of June 1, 2015
MANUFACTURING

Uzin Utz

- German flooring company
- $10 million facility in Garrison Oak Technology Park
- Groundbreaking held in May
- Operational by April
MANUFACTURING

Playtex, Dover

• Adding 400 jobs 2015-2017
• Playtex Energizer Personal Care facility, Walker Road
• Energizer Holdings, Inc., closing Montreal facility

Historically important to Kent County

• Longtime Dover employer traces roots to A.N. Spanel’s International Latex Corporation. Started in Dover in 1939.
• Playtex, Proctor and Gamble and ILC Dover employ more than 1,300 people in Kent County.
Bayhealth-Kent General keeps growing upward

Adding fourth floor will allow completion of third floor

By Chris Hold

DOVER — In an effort to meet the ever-growing needs of Kent County, Bayhealth is upgrading the Kent General Hospital in Dover again.

Beginning in March, the hospital will begin building a fourth floor on top of the current empty third floor of the hospital addition that was opened in 2005.

The fourth floor will house all private rooms, including the post-operative area and emergency department. 

“Kent is growing, and our hospital needs to grow with it,” said Kent General CEO Linwood Hoke.

The hospital is planning to open the fourth floor in December of 2016.

Costs: More than $200 million

This is an artist's rendering of what Kent General Hospital will look like when the construction of a 30,000-square-foot fourth floor is completed early in 2016. The $15.5 million project is expected to be completed in early 2016 and add 20 percent more capacity to the hospital.

To date, Milford Memorial Hospital in Milford has been working on a $200 million expansion.

Costs: More than $200 million

This is an artist's rendering of what Milford Memorial Hospital will look like when the construction of a 10,000-square-foot fourth floor is completed early in 2016. The project is expected to be completed in early 2016 and add 20 percent more capacity to the hospital.

To date, Milford Memorial Hospital in Milford has been working on a $200 million expansion.

They are planning to open the fourth floor in December of 2016.
Eden Hill

- ExpressCare acquires walk-in clinic
- Expanded hours
- On-site pharmacy
- About 25,000 patients per year
HEALTH CARE

Westside Family Healthcare

- Opens dental clinic in Dover in August
- $1 million in capital funds from the Affordable Care Act to build the Dover dental clinic
- 10 employees, 2 dentists

Nonprofit dental clinic opens in Dover

By Ashton Brown
Delaware State News

DOVER — Elected officials, health care professionals and members of the community gathered at Westside Family Healthcare in Dover on Monday to celebrate the opening of its new dental clinic.

Westside’s Dover location is one of six across the state and opened in August 2011. Westside President and Chief Executive Officer Lolita A Lopez said that the addition of a dental clinic has been part of the plan since the location’s opening.

“We’ve always known that dental care is integral to primary care and it was only a matter of time until we would be able to add it to the services we already offer,” she said.

Of the six Westside clinics statewide, Dover is only the second to provide dental services, the other is in Wilmington. Westside hopes that the Dover dental clinic will serve residents of both Kent County and northern Sussex who do not have access to affordable dental care, and may not have for years.

“We anticipate the vast majority of patients that come in will not have had professional oral care in many years and may be facing serious problems, so we will be prepared for that,” Mrs. Lopez said.

The dental clinic will be staffed by 10 employees and at least two Dental Assistants. The clinic will be open Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

See Clinic — Page 32
HEALTH CARE

Wesley College

• Health Sciences Building, South New Street
• Former Frear Federal Building
• Ribbon-cutting in March
• 36,000-square-foot facility
• Nursing department includes 140 undergraduate students and about 40 graduate students
• More than six times larger than previous space on campus
RESEARCH

Delaware State University

• Optical Science Center for Applied Research

• Initial 27,000-square-foot first phase will house state-of-the-art advanced research laboratories.

• Projected opening date: Spring 2015

• Place where high tech innovators and entrepreneurs will have access to experts and technology

• Cost: Phase I is $18 million; Phase II, $28.8 million

Growth in Central Delaware: DSU Optical Science Center

Construction on Delaware State University’s new Optical Science Center for Applied Research is well underway.
AVIATION

Delaware Airpark

- In August, announcement of $5 million federal grant
- 45-acre site near Cheswold
- Will allow construction of 4,200-foot runway
- Site is home to Delaware State University’s aviation program
AVIATION

Civilian Air Terminal

• At Dover Air Force Base
• Trying to secure agreement with contractor to develop air cargo ramp
• Shovel-ready
• Would allow overnight parking for private cargo planes
• Effort ongoing
• Also used for NASCAR
MILITARY

Dover Air Force Base

- $98.3 million runway project
- Replacing 69-year-old runway
- Dover received its 18th and final C-5M in April
- C-5 air crew and maintenance facility due to open in FY2015
MILITARY

AMC Museum, Dover

- C-5A dedication in November
- 40 years of service
- 20,000 flight hours
- Only C-5A on display in a museum

C-5A dedication gives lift to former crew members

AMC Museum now has the only plane of this type on display in the world

By Ashton Brown
Dover Air Force Base

DOVER — Hundreds of civilians, service members and dignitaries joined in Friday morning at the Air Mobility Command Museum to dedicate a C-5A that made its last flight on Aug. 17 to all the flight, ground and support crew that had ever worked on it.

"More than 25 years ago, when the museum was less than a year old, we had just one wheeled plane and less than half the space of a C-5. We put in a request of planes to add and a C-5 was on that list," said Michael Lenzler, director of the museum.

The dedication ceremony was attended by Col. Richard Nease Jr., commander of the 911th Airlift Wing at Dover Air Force Base, and the presence of the Delaware congressional delegation validated the work of the 911th and no other delegations support the military in the way Delaware's does.

After the presentation, a ceremonial ribbon was cut and covered photos into the cockpit bay of the plane and groups of 11 climbed the long ladder up to the cockpit and crew compartments.

In line to go up to the cockpit were many veterans and former crew members of the C-5. Among those was Col. Richard Nease Jr., commander of the 911th Airlift Wing at Dover Air Force Base, and the presence of the Delaware congressional delegation validated the work of the 911th and no other delegations support the military in the way Delaware's does.

The plane is now 42 years old and has logged nearly 69,000 flight hours. It is now on the ground for good and in public display at the AMC museum.

"We're pleased to have this on display for our pleasure for hopefully the rest of our lives," said Col. Miers.

The museum is at 1201 Heritage Blvd in Dover and open Tuesday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on those days.

People can see the AMC Museum Saturday morning by viewing the C-5A at the museum.

— the museum’s first C-5A on permanent display.
HOTELS

Home2 Suites

- Now open on Loockerman
- Ideal for military, others with extended stays

CHAMBER CONNECTION

Blazing the trail for membership

What is a Thrillhunter? By definition, it is an improver-upper in a particular field. Well, this is an accurate description of the Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce because we are doing our part in the midst of making history. You can be part of it.

Last year, as Delaware’s only Accredited Chamber of Commerce, we reached a 5-star, 500 member milestone. The momentum carried over into this year, as we added the 5,000 member mark. This year, we are striving to reach 5,800 members by the end of the year. We are now embarking on this territory. We are aiming for the 7,500 mark by the end of 2016. We have the tools to reach this number, as we have a dedicated membership team. We have for the first time in our history, doubled our membership rates for new members by 50 percent for the first year of membership.

New members must commit to a two-year agreement and agree to pay in full for the second year of membership. This promotion is for a limited time only so now is the time to start a golden opportunity to grow your business at a significant discount.

By increasing our membership base, the CDCC can offer more innovative ways for our members to connect, be able to expand the non-member program, and have a stronger legislative presence in our state to keep government regulations at a minimum.

See Chamber — Page 11

Dover hotel to offer extended stays

Home2Suites expected to open in July

By Sharon Howard
Delaware Sun News

DOVER—Residents and tourists should keep an eye on the horizon for Home2Suites, as the family-friendly hotel is scheduled to open in July.

Home2Suites by Hilton will be at 22297 Airport Highway. Rooms are extended stay facilities with long-term stays.

It is on the site of the former Garden Inn, the now the TGI Frilkins restaurant.

The hotel was originally scheduled to open in June, but the weather in May pushed the opening.

"It seemed like every time it rained, there was a snow storm," he said.

The hotel will have 81 rooms, meaning we will be offering mini-balconies or two-bedroom units and will be the closest to TGI Frilkins restaurant.

See Hotel — Page 14
TOURISM

Dover International Speedway

• Home to two NASCAR weekends a year

• This weekend, it will host first elimination race of the Chase
TOURISM

The Woodlands of Dover International Speedway

• Now home to one of biggest music festivals in country
• 80,000 people attended in 2014
• Returns again in June
TOURISM

The Woodlands

Dover International Speedway

• Punkin’ Chunkin’ new to Kent County in 2014
• Has drawn up to 50,000 spectators, receives national television exposure
TOURISM

Delaware Wine and Ale Trail

• New businesses: Harvest Ridge in Marydel and Painted Stave Distillery in Smyrna

• Complements already-established Pizzadili Vineyard and Winery in Felton and Fordham and Dominion Brewery in Dover
SPORTS TOURISM

**Kent County Regional Sports Complex**

- Tournament complex proposed for South Frederica
- 15 fields for soccer, lacrosse, field hockey
- Draw for competitive, regional sports teams
- Supported by Greater Kent Committee
- Land offered by Kent County
- Studies indicate $20 million in economic benefits
- Delayed by DelDOT prioritization change to South Frederica interchange
DOWNTOWN ARTS

Parke Green Galleries

• Art and Delaware products
• Located on State Street by The Green
DOWNTOWN PROGRESS

EZ Pass

- Call center opened on Loockerman Street, Dover, in March
- 85 employees
- Handled 269,955 total customer phone calls in six months
- 6,672 walk-in customers in six months
DOWNTOWN INITIATIVE

Development Districts

• Legislation signed in June
• $7 million in grants, incentives
• For repairs, construction
• At least one district in each of the counties
• Chosen based on need, quality of plan, local incentives

“Many of our state’s downtown areas could use an infusion of energy and, not to mention, an infusion of resources,” said Gov Markell.
DOWNTOWN PROGRESS

Sankofa Cultural Arts Center

- 4,000-square-foot building at 39 S. West St. in Dover
- Will offer after-school, educational and recreational programs to increase youths’ awareness on culture and arts.
- $500,000 raised by Inner City Cultural League
RECREATION

Kent County Recreation Center

• New Burton Road
• 30,000-square-foot recreation area
• Outdoor sports fields and lights
• Home to Boys and Girls Club
• Costs: $10 million+
Caesar Rodney School District

• School board agreed in August to seek state approval for $100.6 million referendum

• Recommendations includes a new elementary school in Magnolia, four additions and renovations to all 12 schools

• Ten-classroom addition to high school and two turf fields
SCHOOLS

Polytech High School

- $20 million expansion
- 53,460-square foot addition opened in August
- New wing includes auditorium, main office, new entrance, modern electronics classrooms, TV studio and more
- Upgrades to nursing, medical areas
**SCHOOLS**

**Woodbridge High School**

- New high school opened in Greenwood in August
- School now close to its farm and sports complex
- 162,000-square-foot facility
- New gym will seat 1,100
- District passed $52.5 million referendum in 2011
- Will serve about 600 students

*Most of district is in Sussex County, but it extends into southwestern Kent in the Farmington area.*
SCHOOLS

Early College High School

- In Delaware State University Living and Learning Commons (formerly the Sheraton)
- 132 high school students
- Tuition-free, public charter school that allows students to get a head start on college by earning up to two years of transferrable credits
- Ribbon cutting earlier this month
SCHOOLS

Dover High School
• Opened in August
• $114 million project
• 110 instructional spaces
• Windows in all classrooms
• Technology, wireless access in all classrooms
• 950-seat auditorium
• 2,500-seat gymnasium
• 4,000-seat stadium with synthetic turf field
RETAIL

New businesses

Royal Farms in Dover
RETAIL

Chain stores

In area

• Red Wing shoes in Dover
• Walgreens in Camden by one of recently built Redner’s
• Mattress Warehouse in Dover
• Noodles & Co. in Dover
New to Dover

Dick’s Sporting Goods opened in November

- 53,183-square-foot addition to Dover Mall
- Dick’s 552nd store in 44 states.

Also new to Dover Mall:

- Forever 21
- Fashion to Figure
RETAIL

Bad news, good news

• Kmart closed in April
• JCPenney in Dover Mall remains open
RETAIL

Family Dollar

- New to Downtown Dover
- Located on Loockerman Street
- Site of former NAPA building

- Also location under construction in Frederica
- Next to Post Office on Front Street
CUTTING RIBBONS

Classic Cakes: One of a number of small businesses celebrating openings with ribbon cuttings

Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce has held 38 such ceremonies so far this year.
Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce

• Earned 5-Star Accreditation in November

• Only 79 of more than 7,000 in nation have such status

• Currently on ambitious member drive with a goal of 1,000
Thank you!

Keep building on progress in Kent County

Andrew West
Managing Editor