BAREFOOTIN'

Summer buzz about arts, politics, Delaware Tech funding

By Dennis Forney | Jun 19, 2015

Rehoboth Art League's permanent collection - now housed in a climate-controlled facility - includes hundreds of paintings as well as a number of sculpted pieces.

Rehoboth Art League recently populated the repurposed Homestead Mansion stables with its permanent collection of art acquired over the past 75 years. The expertly painted exterior of the stables masks the state-of-the-art conversion of the deteriorating building into a climate-controlled, secure storage facility. The league has spent a lot of money through the years acquiring and restoring the hundreds of pieces in the collection. The facility will ensure that these priceless, one-of-a-kind treasures retain their original vibrancy and will be available for enjoyment for centuries. A black-painted alcove in the league's Corkran Gallery houses a rotating monthly exhibition from the collection.

Executive Director Sheila Bravo said the storage area not only includes temperature and humidity systems, but also a fire-suppression system. When it senses fire, the system removes oxygen to a level that will not support combustion. This collection protection has been needed for years. The sophistication of the facility and the way it has been blended into
its Henlopen Acres setting testifies to the constructive working relationship between the league and the town it calls home.

**Lieutenant governor candidates**

Brad Eaby stopped by the office this week. A Levy Court commissioner in Kent County, equivalent to Sussex County Council member, Eaby has announced his candidacy for lieutenant governor in 2016. He’s a Democrat, and so is former Sussex County Register of Wills Greg Fuller, who has announced he will also seek the post. Rehoboth Beach Commissioner Kathy McGuiness hasn’t officially announced her intention to seek the lieutenant governor position, but she is making the rounds of several high-profile events and is widely touted as a candidate. She also is a Democrat. Candidates will have until July 1, 2016 to enter the race.

**Del Tech needs help**

A while back this column featured details about $85 million in deferred maintenance on the campuses of Delaware Tech due to lack of funding. Much of that deferred maintenance is at Georgetown’s Owens Campus. Del Tech provides targeted higher education to more students than any institution in Delaware. Most finish their degrees without student debt and with jobs waiting. This high-value education has helped huge numbers of Sussex Countians. The college is seeking legislative approval for a long-term financial solution which would include a modest property tax and bonding authority so those revenues could leverage funds for capital needs. Legislators need to look to the future for our young people and provide this reasonably requested support for cost-effective Delaware Tech.
The former stables of the Homestead Mansion have never looked better, though they now provide shelter for art instead of horses. (Photo by: Dennis Forney)

This painting and the following two are part of Rehoboth Art League’s permanent collection. They are in
a small gallery within the Corkran Gallery which houses a rotating monthly exhibit of pieces from the collection. This is a Stanley Arthurs semi-abstract painting of the art league grounds. (Photo by: Dennis Forney)

This piece by Alexis Young is painted in the hyper-realistic style and shows a scene at Holts Landing State Park on Indian River Bay. (Photo by: Dennis Forney)
This New England scene by William Leach is painted in the impressionistic style. (Photo by: Dennis Forney)