

## Whisman Giordano & Associates Names New Managing Director

Whisman Giordano & Associates, LLC (WGA) announces Lisa K. DeRose, CPA, CGMA, as its new managing director. DeRose is the first female managing director and a non-Giordano family member or Whisman to lead the firm.

DeRose has over 35 years of experience. She joined WGA as a partner in 2013 and was named Chief Operating Officer this past March. DeRose is a recognized community leader with a solid commitment to mentoring. She helped found the Delaware chapter of the ACE Mentor Program in 2010, which has given over \$100,000 in scholarships to high school students interested in building design and construction careers. Since 2001, she has served as treasurer to the Delaware chapter of the Construction Financial Management Association.

President Joseph V. Giordano, CPA, CGMA, shared, “Lisa has been a leader in the firm from the minute she joined us over a decade ago. Electing her as the firm’s first female managing partner in our 50-year history was a no-brainer, and I look forward to her leading our firm now and into the future. I’ve said it many times, and it rings truer each time – Lisa is a rock star.”



*Lisa K. DeRose*

## MDavis & Sons, Inc. Appoints New President

M. Davis & Sons, Inc., a leading woman-owned, fifth-generation industrial construction company operating across multiple facilities in the Mid-Atlantic region, recently announced the appointment of Michael A. Gilmartin as president and chief financial officer (CFO).

Holding the position of CFO in 2015, Gilmartin brings 25 years of extensive experience in the contracting and construction industry to his new role. In addition to maintaining his current



*Michael A. Gilmartin*

responsibilities as CFO, Gilmartin will now oversee strategic presidential duties, contributing to the continued success and growth of M. Davis & Sons, Inc.

John C. Gooden, the former President, will continue to play a pivotal role as chief operating officer (COO), ensuring a seamless transition and providing continued leadership. “Mike has guided

M. Davis through some of the most tumultuous financial times, including the pandemic,” stated John. “I trust that he will bring the same grit and tenacity to the role of President and continue the legacy of success and innovation for which M. Davis is known.”

## Dole Expands Service at Port of Wilmington

Enstructure, a leading U.S. marine terminal and logistics company, and Dole Food Company recently announced the expansion of Dole’s shipping services to Port Wilmington in Delaware. The addition of a second weekly service will increase the capacity of tropical fresh fruits, including Dole branded fruits, and general cargo being imported to the Mid-Atlantic region from Colombia, Honduras, and Guatemala.

“Dole has been a key partner at Port Wilmington for over 40 years and we are excited to support their continued growth in the Mid-Atlantic,” said Matthew Satnick and Philippe De Montigny, Co-CEOs of Enstructure. “Since taking over Port Wilmington operations in July 2023, we have appreciated Dole’s collaborative approach to growth and commitment to operational excellence

at the Port. Dole’s new weekly service will support continued investment in the Port’s infrastructure while bolstering our local workforce.”

## Middlesex Water Company names new President & CEO

Middlesex Water Company, the parent company of Tidewater Utilities, has named Nadine Leslie as its new president & CEO. Ms. Leslie joins Middlesex following a comprehensive search for a successor to Former President & CEO Dennis W. Doll, who retired from the company on February 29, 2024. Ms. Leslie has also been appointed to the Board of Directors.

Ms. Leslie is an accomplished leader with domestic and international experience in the Water Industry. She previously served as Chief Executive Officer of SUEZ North America from 2019 to 2022. In this capacity, she was responsible for overseeing one of North America’s



*Nadine Leslie*

leading environmental companies, with revenues over \$1.1 billion, providing water and recycling and recovery services to 6.6 million people in the United States and Canada. The scope of her responsibilities included 15 regulated water utilities, 65 municipal contracts through innovative public-private partnerships and the long-term asset management contracts for water storage facilities, serving more than 4,000 municipal and industrial clients.

Mr. Doll will remain chairman of the Middlesex Board of Directors through the expiration of his current term at the Annual Meeting of Shareholders on May 21, 2024. "I and the rest of the Middlesex Board of Directors are thrilled to have Nadine join our company. Her breadth of knowledge and experience bring a fresh perspective to the numerous opportunities and challenges facing our company and our industry," said Doll. "The search committee of our Board of Directors led a very comprehensive and thoughtful recruiting process to ensure we could identify a leader to further the Company's mission to provide operational and financial excellence."

## Beebe Healthcare receives grant from Highmark Delaware

Beebe Healthcare recently hosted Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield officials in Lewes to celebrate a \$1 million grant that will help fund a new clinic in Long Neck for the Family Medicine Residency. This new building project at the Long Neck Health Center will give current and future family medicine residents more space to serve a culturally diverse population in an area that continues to grow. With the full complement of residents, the doctors will be able to provide about 7,000 primary care appointments.



## Wilmington University Brandywine Breaks Ground for Two New Buildings

At a groundbreaking event on Jan. 25, 2024, Wilmington University officials announced the construction of two landmark buildings at its Brandywine site: a convocation center and a school of law. Completion dates for both buildings are tentatively scheduled for 2025.

The state-of-the-art Convocation Center will span an impressive 85,000 square feet. A 2,000-seat auditorium with a spacious stage destined to host graduation ceremonies and other events will welcome guests via a grand foyer. The center will also house the university's Criminal Justice Institute.

The three-story, 52,000-square-foot law building will embody sophisticated design. Its centerpiece is a majestic three-floor atrium with expansive windows that emanate natural light. Spanning the second floor, a library and both large and private study rooms will offer a sanctuary for focused academics. The third floor will include faculty and administrative offices.

"These new buildings represent an exciting and pivotal moment in Wilmington University's history," said Wilmington University President Dr. LaVerne Harmon. "They also signify progress, growth, and our sustained efforts to provide opportunity as well as enhanced learning environments and exceptional facilities our students deserve."

"Beebe Healthcare is continually transforming to serve the people of Sussex County," said David A. Tam, MD, MBA, CPHE, FACHE, president & CEO of Beebe Healthcare. "Access to primary care is one of our strategic cornerstones for the future of healthcare, and we're growing our own family medicine physicians to serve our expanding community."

The funding is thanks to Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield's donor-advised fund, BluePrints for the Community, which is housed at the Delaware

Community Foundation, and has contributed over \$30 million to the community since its inception in 2007.

"Highmark is committed to developing the workforce we need now and in the future to support better health outcomes in Delaware and beyond," said Nick Moriello, president of Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield Delaware. "Our colleagues at Beebe have committed to attracting and retaining health professionals in Sussex County and we are proud to partner with them to accomplish this."

## Saint Mark's and UD develop internship program

Saint Mark's High School is pleased to welcome Pete Thomas and Ethan Ciarlo as interns in the esports department. Both Thomas and Ciarlo are currently students from the University of Delaware majoring in esports.

Saint Mark's Esports Manager Chris Ruffini said he was thrilled when the University of Delaware reached out to him a few months ago and asked if he would consider creating internships for UD students.

Both Thomas and Ciarlo will be creating educational units for the game concepts course, designing graphics for Spartan teams and live streams, and assisting

in coaching the esports competitive team after school. Ruffini is excited to see the rapid growth of esports in the area. "Students now have a pathway to finding careers in the multi-billion-dollar gaming industry and Saint Mark's is at the forefront," he said. "Students can focus on different areas of study within the esports major including business management, graphic design, computer science, event planning and much more." Thomas is focusing on esports management while Ciarlo is concentrating on game design and programming.

Saint Mark's President Tom Fertal is enthusiastic about the partnership with the University of Delaware. "This collaborative effort with the University of Delaware is truly a win-win. The UD students are afforded the opportunity for hands-on experience at a leading esports facility and program, while our students learn from, and are inspired by, mentors who are pursuing their dreams in this exciting field."



## Down Syndrome Association of Delaware Opens Sussex County Office

The Down Syndrome Association of Delaware (DSA of DE) has announced the opening of a new office in Milton, allowing them to expand the reach of services to a new area in Sussex County. "We offer services to families throughout the entire state, but this is exciting news because we will be able to reach more of our members more easily and locally in Sussex County," says Lauren Camp Gates, executive director of DSA of DE.

Purchasing and opening the new office, which features office, conference, and meeting spaces along with a large fenced-in playground, was a long-term goal of the Down Syndrome Association of Delaware, which had planned for the purchase of a property by 2025. The grand opening, which took place on Thursday, January 25, 2024, was more than one year ahead of that goal! The purchase was made possible by the ongoing support of many individuals and businesses in the greater Delaware community, including the Welfare Foundation, the McDonald Foundation, The Townsend Family Fund, Crystal Trust, Sussex County Council, and the award of a federal grant through the American Rescue Plan.

## Jocelyn E. Moses elected president of MACUHO

Goldey-Beacom College is pleased to announce that Dean of Students Jocelyn E. Moses (Byers-Smith) has been elected as president of the Mid-Atlantic Association of College and University Housing Officers (MACUHO). Moses (Byers-Smith) has been a member of MACUHO since 2007 and previously served as the director of membership development.

In addition to her appointment as president, Moses (Byers-Smith) has also been honored to be selected as one of eight faculty for the 25th annual MACUHO/NEACUHO Northeast Association of College and University Housing Officers Regional Entry-Level Institute (RELI) which will be held beginning May 28, 2024, at George Washington University.



RELI provides professional development opportunities for entry level staff and veteran housing and residence life staff through an intensive experience which includes promoting interaction of both groups through presenting and mentoring.

Moses (Byers-Smith) has been working in the higher education field for 17 years in both residence life and student engagement. She currently oversees the staff and day-to-day activities



*Jocelyn E. Moses*

of Residence Life and Student Engagement at GBC, promoting a safe, inclusive, and student-focused sense of community. She ensures that day-to-day operations in the Residence Halls are focused on a conflict-free environment, compliance with policies and regulations, and retention.

## **\$2.7 million in grants and donations from WSFS CARES**

The WSFS CARES Foundation, the charitable giving arm of WSFS Bank, announced it provided grants and donations totaling more than \$2.7 million to more than 390 community organizations located across Delaware, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania in 2023. WSFS also made a \$2.0 million contribution to the WSFS CARES Foundation in 2023 to support future investments in its communities.

In addition to the grants, Team WSFS, the WSFS corporate volunteer program, volunteered more than 18,000 hours during 2023. This included the inaugural “We Stand for Service Day” in June, a volunteer initiative where WSFS closed its banking offices for a half day so approximately 1,200 Associates could volunteer nearly

5,000 hours at more than 80 organizations and make an impact across the Greater Philadelphia and Delaware region.

“In 2023, the WSFS CARES Foundation provided grants to more than 390 community organizations who have a shared focus with the Foundation’s key pillars,” said Patrick J. Ward, executive vice president, Pennsylvania market

president at WSFS Bank and chairman of the WSFS CARES Foundation.

“We’re proud of the impact the WSFS CARES Foundation and our Team WSFS volunteers have made by working hand-in-hand to address the needs of our communities, and I would like to thank our dedicated Associate volunteers for living our mission each day.”



## **Chase opens branch in Rehoboth Beach**

In late January Chase proudly celebrated the grand opening of its full-service bank branch in the beach community of Rehoboth, marking 11 total bank branches in the state of Delaware. Chase now has a footprint in all three counties in the First State. Tom Horne, Delaware market leader and head of consumer branch banking for Chase, was joined by fellow company executives, including Jennifer Roberts, CEO of Chase consumer banking, Krista Dudek, consumer banking divisional director, Tina Vega, Chase banking regional director, and Bryan McCullough, Chase banking Delaware market director.

Community partners included, Michael Quaranta, president of the Delaware State Chamber of Commerce, and leaders of the Rehoboth-Dewey Beach Chamber of Commerce. Delaware State Senator Russ Huxtable, Sussex County District 3 Councilman Mark Schaeffer, Sussex County Administrator Todd Lawson and Sussex County Economic Development Director William Pfaff were also in attendance.

“We are thrilled to have our Rehoboth branch open. Our team looks forward to serving our customers here in the beach communities of Sussex County,” said Felipe ‘Phil’ Gutierrez, Rehoboth branch manager.