

Shopping Local This Holiday Season Makes Our Community a Better Place to Live and Work!

In the enchanting season of Christmas, as we dive into the spirit of giving, let's not forget the magic we can bring to our communities by choosing to support local businesses. Here are 10 heartwarming reasons to make the conscious decision to shop local and infuse the joy of Christmas into the heart of your community.

This festive season, every dollar spent at locally-owned businesses becomes a gift to your community, with \$68 out of every \$100 staying close to home. It's not just a purchase; it's a contribution to the unique character and charm that make Christmas in your town truly special.

Local businesses play Santa by creating job opportunities for your neighbors, ensuring a brighter Christmas for all. Higher-paying jobs in essential professions, from teachers to firefighters, knit together a stronger, more connected community.

Extend your Christmas cheer to the environment by choosing local. Reduced transportation and eco-friendly packaging from nearby businesses contribute to a greener, more sustainable holiday season.

These aren't just businesses; they're your Christmas elves-friends and neighbors who know and love your community. Studies show local businesses donate to holiday causes at more than twice the rate of larger corporations, spreading the warmth of shared responsibility.

Picture the snow-covered streets adorned

with twinkling lights. By shopping local, you're contributing to the festive decorations and community events that make your town a Christmas wonderland. It's a gift that keeps on giving.

Consider the impact on your holiday budget—shopping in a local business district means less strain on infrastructure and more funds available for festive decorations and celebrations. Opting for local businesses over online shopping ensures your Christmas spirit is invested where it matters most—in your own winter wonderland.

Local businesses curate their holiday offerings based on your preferences, providing a wider array of unique and festive products. This personalized touch extends to their expertise, ensuring you find the perfect gifts for your loved ones.

Supporting local businesses during Christmas is an investment in the holiday magic—nurturing creativity and entrepreneurship, the very essence of a joyful season.

Your choice to support local businesses transforms your community into a Christmas destination, attracting new residents, visitors, and guests who seek the warmth of a unique and festive atmosphere.

So, as you embark on your Christmas shopping journey, let the magic of the season guide your choices. Choose local, spread the joy of Christmas throughout your community, and be a holiday hero one purchase at a time.



Pike Creek Community League Organizing to Engage All Residents

Pike Creek residents are invited to participate in the first meeting of the Pike Creek Community League on December 13, 2023, at Goldey Beacom College from 6:00 to 8:00 pm in the new community room.

With a mission to enhance the well-being of our community by fostering civic engagement, supporting local businesses, and addressing common concerns, the league is poised to become a cornerstone of unity and pride for Pike Creek area residents and businesses.

The agenda for this first meeting includes updates on significant community developments. Guests, including Rep. Michael Ramone, will provide legislative insights from the General Assembly, complemented by County Council updates and a police report.

In the true spirit of community collaboration, attendees are encouraged to bring a toy for a child, ensuring that the joy of Christmas reaches every corner of Pike Creek.

Businesses, residents, and community groups are invited to be part of this momentous occasion and contribute to the shaping of Pike Creek's future. Save the date and join us at Goldey Beacom on selected months about 4 times per year.

Making an Impact on Hunger!

Three Approaches To Hunger in Delaware Address the Short and Long Term Issues

In the battle against hunger in Delaware, three different organizations are making a significant impact.

Food in an Emergency: Catholic Charities is one of the groups who provides emergency food pantries for those facing immediate crises with 3-4 days of supplies.

Food Bank Support: The Delaware Food Bank takes a more comprehensive approach, not only distributing millions of pounds of food annually but also investing in workforce and community development programs. These initiatives encompass job training, financial coaching, and nutrition education, addressing both short-term needs and long-term solutions.

Community Restoration: Delaware Regional Dream Center provides help to individuals by coordinating services and/or referrals that provides life's basic necessities. Thus, motivating those individuals to achieve a more fulfilled standard of living. They create, develop and sustain programs to address our community's needs.

This group gives help directly to individuals through, to the following activities; Community Outreach, Hunger Relief and Community Restoration to address the root causes.



We want your opinion:
Tell us about a local business that offers great value, treats their customers right and deserves our enthusiastic support during the holidays?

We will publish your nominations!!

Don't worry, when the birds return and the days get longer, we will be here to cut your lawn. Merry Christmas!



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Supporting Our Local Stores and Restaurants is good for the You and the Community!

By Eric Braunstein

Shopping locally has several benefits over online shopping. Here are some reasons why you should consider shopping locally:

Supporting Our Community: When you shop locally, you are supporting small businesses in our community. This helps create jobs and enhance money circulating within the local economy.

Personalized service: Shopping locally allows you to interact with business owners and employees who provide personalized service and advice. This can be especially helpful when you need help choosing the right product or service.

Environmental impact: Shopping locally has a positive impact on the environment by reducing the carbon footprint associated with shipping products long distances

Product quality: When you shop locally, you see and touch the products



before you buy them. This helps you ensure that you receive the quality products that meet your needs.

Easier returns: If you need to return a product, it is safer to do when you shop locally. You simply return the product to the store instead of having to ship it back to an online retailer reducing the possibility of lost or stolen returns.

Community building: Shopping locally can help build a sense of community by bringing people together and supporting and enjoying local events and initiatives.

Eric Braunstein is a freelance writer with years of experience in local retail management.

Community Poll: How Should We Govern in Delaware?

Delaware Residents seem to believe in “Common Sense” solutions to complex problems.

The General Legislature and the Governor’s Admin are on the right track for Delawareans:
36% *Yes, One party rule is fair. It’s our turn.*
64% *No, Collaboration leads to better decisions.*

Most Community Problems can be solved with more Common Sense and Less Politics.
75% *Yes, Common Sense is not that common!*
25% *No, You can’t collaborate with your enemy.*

Would good people working together to consider all points of view be a better way to govern that what we are governing in a One-Party State?
68% *Yes, Common Sense comes from collaboration*
32% *No, elections matter and the voters want partisanship.*

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Bill to Mandate Free School Meals to Cost State Millions\$

Six Democratic state legislators are sponsoring legislation that would require all public schools to offer free breakfast and lunch to all students.

House Bill 125, whose primary sponsor is Rep. Sherae’a Moore, D-Middletown, was introduced in April, but never heard by the General Assembly, which returns to session in January. Moore declined an interview to discuss the bill.

The bill explains that during the COVID-19 pandemic, the U.S. Department of Agriculture eased program restrictions to allow for free breakfast and lunch for all students.

However, the department’s waivers expired on June 30, 2022, so Delaware schools participating in the USDA School Breakfast Program and National School Lunch Program were required to return to pre-pandemic policies on free meals.

“The Delaware Department of Education appreciates the intent of the legislation, but we realize the potential for a significant fiscal note,” said Alison May, public information officer at the Department of Education.

The original fiscal note of the bill had a hefty state cost that included:

\$31,635,852 (\$6,801,866 for breakfast and \$24,833,986 for lunch) in fiscal year 2024

Some schools in low-income communities are part of the USDA’s Community Eligibility Provision, which allows all their students to get free meals, and districts are reimbursed by the federal government.

Students who are not in CEP schools have to meet certain household incomes to qualify for free meals:

Out of Delaware’s 250 public schools, there are 127 CEP schools, according to Department of Education data.

“You have to separate the emotion of wanting to ensure that no child goes to school hungry from what the state can afford to do,” said Sen. Eric Buckson, R-Dover. “Middle class Delawareans will be asked to give more of their hard-earned dollars to pay for this program.”



“Delawareans already pay for children from low-income households to receive free nutrition, and adding to that bill by including households like mine may seem like a good idea until you realize that nothing is free. and ultimately someone has to pay the bill,” he said.

The idea that no child has to go to school hungry is one everyone supports, he said, but the state has programs in place to ensure that doesn’t occur and adding millions of dollars to Delaware’s budget at a time when the budget is already in a deficit is a mistake.

“When you expand government programs like this one, you have to take away funding from other programs or you have to ask the taxpayer to give more at a time when they can ill afford to do so given the inflation and challenges this state and country are facing.”

Published in Delaware Live News.



Plans for TLB Site To Be Announced

At the Pike Creek League Meeting, we expect to have the final plans for the Three Little Baker’s site ... Here is how we got here:

2008: Pike Creek Recreational Services (PCRS) takes title.

2008: Property subdivided and deed restrictions amended to accommodate a skilled nursing facility and two medical office buildings.

11/16/2010: Proposal for 288 units, including 44 singles, 130 townhomes, 42 twins, 12 condo units, a restaurant, office, and shopping center.

12/14/2010: Resolution R10-217 holds all approvals of TLB plans.

11/13/2014: Proposal for 224 units, including 28 singles, 76 townhomes, 24 twins, and 96 apartments.

2018: Motion made to the court to allow for 454 units to construct the balance of the remaining 5,454 units allowable in the master plan.

4/23/2022: Revised plan going through the land use process, approximately 63 single-family homes.

See you at the first Pike Creek League Meeting on December 13 in Goldey Beacom College’s Community Room at 6:00.



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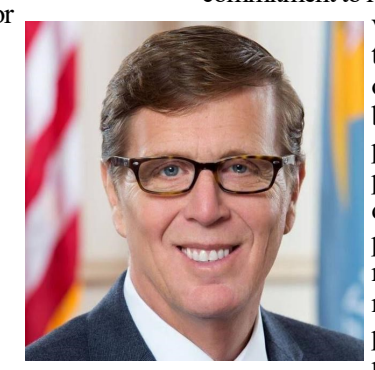
Representative Michael Ramone,
Delaware State Representative

In the pursuit of political control, extreme factions within both parties have overshadowed Delaware's historical legacy of “common sense”. Under the leadership of Michael Castle, Tom Carper and Pete duPont, the state thrived on cooperation, forging solutions that embodied the essence of “balanced government.” Regrettably, that tradition has died.

Today, a single-party dominance has steered Delaware leftward, expanding the government without a counterbalancing

force to advocate for the average citizen. Soon we will hear calls for new taxes to fund even more government. The departure from common sense governance leaves voters unrepresented and vulnerable.

The collaborative spirit that once defined Delaware's political landscape has been replaced by a polarized climate, where power struggles overshadow the needs of the people. The absence of a moderating



force allows unchecked expansion of government, leaving citizens without a defender.

As we witness this shift, it is crucial to reflect on the values that have long characterized Delaware's political identity. A return to centrism is a reaffirmation of the state's commitment to representing the diverse voices of its citizens. It is time to rekindle the spirit of cooperation, fostering a balanced government that prioritizes the needs of the people over partisan agendas. Delaware deserves a political landscape that mirrors its historical commitment to simpler principles, ensuring a government that truly serves all.

Delaware stands at a crossroads. It's time to reclaim the spirit of cooperation that has

defined us for so long. A new era beckons—one of common sense solutions that bridge the political divide.

Let's move beyond the grip of extreme factions and restore the equilibrium that once made Delaware a beacon of balanced governance. The call for a return to respect is not a retreat but a stride forward, ensuring that the government works for all citizens, not just a select few who are in power right now.

Delawareans deserve a political landscape that echoes their diverse voices, a government committed to pragmatic solutions that prioritize the well-being of every individual. Let's usher in a new chapter, resolute in our pursuit of common ground and resounding in our commitment to common sense solutions that will shape a brighter future for the First State.

Shopping Local Has Many Benefits!

Embrace Our Traditions

Bachetti Bros. is a Tradition that makes Season Holidays Special for all!

For nine decades, Bachetti Bros. Meat Market has been a culinary pillar our community, rooted in a tradition of family, community, and top-tier quality. Beginning as F. Bachetti & Sons in 1932, founder Filippo “Phillip” Bachetti set the foundation for a legacy that would span generations. The transition from a small West Philadelphia shop to a multi-location enterprise, led by sons Albert, Louis, Alfred, and Vincent, showcased a commitment to growth. The establishment of the Kirkwood Highway branch in 1980 marked a significant chapter, expanding the market's footprint. Beyond its origins in meats, Bachetti Bros. has evolved into a hub for specialty foods and renowned catering services. As the family tradition continued with the involvement of the founder's grandsons, the market solidified its place as a one-stop-shop for the community. Today, Bachetti Bros. stands as a testament to the enduring values of tradition, exceptional service, and culinary excellence, woven seamlessly into the vibrant fabric of the Pike Creek area.



Depend on Expert Service

Pike Creek Community Hardware Helps You Tackle Your House Projects.

Walking into this neighborhood hardware store is like entering Santa workshop with experts in every department who are just waiting to help you. The dedicated staff transforms fixing something from a crap shoot to a sure thing with genuine smiles meet a profound willingness to assist.

Whether you're a seasoned DIY enthusiast or a novice seeking guidance, the staff's expertise knows no bounds. Pike Creek Community Hardware goes beyond the transaction, fostering relationships and creating a sense of community. From recommending the perfect paint shade to demystifying the world of power tools, every interaction feels like a collaborative victory. In this hardware wonderland, purchasing transcends a mere transaction; it becomes a shared journey. The local hardware store isn't just a retail destination; it's a community cornerstone, where assistance is as sturdy as the merchandise, and every visit reaffirms the value of personalized service.



Enjoy Immediate Selection:

Deerfield Fine Wines Helps Wine Lovers find the Perfect Spirit for the Holidays!

Embarking on a quest for the perfect bottle during the holiday season is a delight at our local wine store—a sanctuary of impeccable selection and unmatched service. This oenophile's haven boasts an extensive array that caters to both novices and seasoned connoisseurs, ensuring a libation for every festive occasion. The knowledgeable staff, akin to sommeliers of celebration, stand ready to guide patrons through the hundreds of varietals and vintages. Whether you're a Pinot Noir aficionado or navigating the complexities of champagne, their expertise transforms the daunting into a delightful experience. This isn't merely a store; it's a vinous haven where each bottle tells a story, and the staff crafts narratives with every recommendation. As the holiday season approaches, the store becomes a



And Give the Experience:

Gift Cards to Argillos Brewing Company is a Perfect Gift

Dive into a world of delectable delights at our oven-baked pizza haven, where each slice is a masterpiece and every sip an adventure. This culinary gem not only crafts mouthwatering pizzas with perfection but also pairs them with an incredible selection of craft beers. The symphony of flavors is orchestrated by a team dedicated to culinary artistry. As the holiday season approaches, consider the gift of gastronomic joy with our exclusive gift cards. Give the gift of a pizza experience, where the aroma of freshly baked crusts and the hoppy notes of artisanal beers blend seamlessly. It's a present that transcends taste buds, offering a momentary escape into a world of savory indulgence. With each bite and sip, the recipient will savor the holiday spirit, making our oven-baked pizza shop the perfect destination for festive gifting.



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POLLY DRUMMOND SHOPPING CENTER
Pike Creek Delaware



Janey Nelson
Executive Director
Mid-County Senior Center



Dr. Colleen Perry Keith
President
Goldey Beacom College



Rev. Chris Dito
Founder and President
Delaware Dream Center



The Grinch
Advocate for 2nd Chances
Mount Crumpit, Whoville

Meet Community Leaders Making an Impact In Delaware!

- Mid-County Senior Center Welcomed 90 new members in Oct.
- Dr. Colleen Keith named Female Leader of the Year by NCC Chamber.
- Rev. Chris Dito's Dream Center is making a difference helping people in Newark!
- The Grinch recognized as advocate for giving people a 2nd chance.

How Can You Make a Difference?

Several Ways We Can Fight Hunger in Delaware

Here are four different ways you and your family can get involved this year to make a difference at one of these food banks:

1. **Sort and Pack.** Most food banks need help sorting and organizing donations as well as bagging food for donation.
2. **Deliver Food and Meals:** This role helps make sure people receive the food and a smile from a friendly face.
3. **Organize a Food Drive:** Get our friends and neighbors to provide non-perishable food. Each organization is different. Make sure you check the rules before you deliver your donations.

4. **Donating Money:** A well-run food bank can really stretch your cash donation. You'd be surprised how many people they can feed for \$25.

There are just some of the ways you can get involved in helping make a difference in our community.

It's easy, rewarding and it's a great family activity!



Area Food Pantries that Need Your Help!

Hope Dining Room serves a mid-day hot meal, with dignity, to those in need in the Greater Newark/Brookside area. You can donate to this organization at Hope Dining Room Inc: PO Box 9733, Newark DE 19714

The Food Bank of Delaware: The staff at the Food Bank are always looking for help to organize and pack boxes, sort food donations, assist in the pantry, help on a farm, support a mobile pantry, or more. It's fun and easy for a group from your neighborhood, church, or organization. Check out - <https://www.fbd.org/get-involved/volunteer/>

Meals on Wheels of Delaware: Get involved to help seniors in your community get a warm meal and smile every day in one of three ways: Deliver a Meal, Help with a Fundraising Event or get your business involved as a Corporate Partner. Email Susan Dubb at sdubb@MealsONWheels.com.

Friendship House unites people facing homelessness with loving, supportive communities they can call home. Volunteers can find opportunities to serve a meal at a shelter, sort clothes at the Clothing Bank, or help people find jobs at Empowerment Centers. Volunteers can call 302-652-8133 for more information.

The Greenbank Church of Christ Food Bank is accepting donations to support about 80 households coming to them weekly. These 200 people receive enough food to provide their household with three meals a day for three days. They also need volunteers who welcome and validate registration and fill orders. They are at 511 Greenbank Road in Pike Creek. See www.greenbakcoc.org for instructions on how to donate.

OUR DECEMBER COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Special Olympics Reindeer Run & Romp 5K run and walk
December 1, @7:00 in Downtown Newark

Newark Symphony Orchestra's Holiday Spectacular
December 3, @3:00 pm Independence School

Wilmington & Western Railroad's Holiday Lights Express
Wednesday-Sunday Evenings starting 12/6

Pancake Breakfast with Santa at Limestone Presbyterian Church
on December 9th from 9-11 to benefit the Delaware Food Bank

Christmas with the New York Tenors at
St. Mark's High School on December 10 at 4:00 pm

Winterthur Museum & Garden's Yuletide House Tour
Daily from now till 1/7/24 from 10:00am-4:00 RSVP

Pike Creek Civic League - First Meeting
December 13, @ 6:00 - 8:00 pm in the Community Room at Goldey Beacom College.

For more information about these and other events, Scan the QR Code



Sun Dec 10 • 4pm • Saint Mark's HS Theatre



Purchase Tickets www.cdcow.org
All proceeds support the work of Catholic Charities