

Whisman Giordano & Associates, LLC announced Julie Morgan CPA, was named a 2019 Women in Business Honoree

Julie Morgan was selected as a 2019 Women in Business honoree by the editors of *Delaware Today* and the *Delaware Business Times*.

Julie has nearly 40 years of experience in both private and public accounting. At Whisman Giordano, she participates in the overall management of the firm and is the partner in charge of quality control and the accounting and auditing department.

Ever since becoming a Delaware resident 20 years ago, Julie has dedicated herself to the community. She has been involved, or is actively involved, in numerous boards such as the Better Business Bureau of Delaware, Habitat for Humanity, Delaware Theatre Company, Nativity Preparatory School of Wilmington and Serviam Girls Academy.

Joseph V. Giordano, Managing Director and President states, "Whisman Giordano is beyond proud of Julie. What we appreciate about her even more than her superior technical skills and knowledge is her heart. She truly cares for our clients and associates. She is a leader, friend, mentor and volunteer. Everyone trusts her because she cares about the well-being of people. It is rare to find someone as well-rounded as Julie."

32 community organizations receive nearly \$2 million in support for community health improvement initiatives

ChristianaCare launched the Community Investment Fund to address



Julie Morgan

social, behavioral and environmental factors that impact health.

ChristianaCare is investing nearly \$2 million into the community to improve health through the ChristianaCare Community Investment Fund. The fund supports partnerships to build the community's collective capacity to address social, behavioral and environmental factors that impact health.

"As we work to improve health for everyone — in all of the communities we serve — we recognize that we can't do it alone," said Janice E. Nevin, M.D., MPH, president and CEO of ChristianaCare. "There are so many organizations in our community that are providing important, effective services that help people to lead healthier lives. Through these investments, we can help them to sustain and grow these efforts, as we work together to make a positive impact on our community."

As an anchor institution in the community, ChristianaCare is investing in community health improvement programs as a core component of its community benefit activities. This year's 32 awardees will receive funding to support community health improvement initiatives focused on high-need communities.

Recipients were selected based on the quality of their proposals and implementation plans, and on the alignment of their proposals with the key priorities of ChristianaCare's Community Health Needs Assessment and Community Health Implementation Plan. The funded initiatives will be implemented throughout the upcoming year. The next application process funding will open in June 2020 and be available at christianacare.org/communityhealth.

BLS CPAs earns spot on Forbes America's Top Recommended Tax & Accounting Firms List

Belfint, Lyons & Shuman, CPAs (BLS), a Top 300 accounting firm headquartered in Wilmington, Delaware, closed 2019 with a bang by earning the honor of being the only Delaware-based firm named on Forbes' inaugural America's Top Recommended Tax and Accounting Firms List. Of the more than 100,000 CPA firms, only 227 firms made the list and BLS was one of 90 firms to make both the Tax and Accounting lists.

BLS Managing Director, Michael T. French, CPA, stated, "We are thrilled with this honor from Forbes, especially knowing that the vote was among industry peers and business professionals. This recognition is a cool way to cap off a great year for BLS which included being an IPA Top 300 Firm for the fifth consecutive year, a Top Workplace locally for the eleventh consecutive year, and a ClearlyRated 2019 Best of Accounting™ Award Winner for Client Service Excellence. It makes me proud to know that our staff is living up to our mission of Providing Exceptional Services through Exceptional People."

Melissa Kenny Promoted to Executive Vice President of Kenny Family ShopRite Stores

Delaware Supermarkets, Inc., the family-owned company that operates six ShopRite supermarkets in the state, announced today that Melissa Kenny, the former Director of Sales and Marketing, has been promoted to Executive Vice President, effective January 1, 2020. In her new role, Kenny will have direct oversight of Operations, Finance, Human Resources, Marketing and Loss Prevention for the organization.

AT&T Adds New Site in Kent County

AT&T customers and FirstNet subscribers in Kent County recently got a big boost in wireless connectivity.

The new site covers customers in Sandtown, Petersburg and Route 12 between Felton and the Delaware/Maryland border, helping to give residents and first responders faster, more reliable wireless service. This investment will help customers get the most out of their mobile devices.

“We want our customers to have a great experience. With this new site, our customers in the area will be able to experience better network connectivity while streaming videos, sharing on social media or texting family and friends,” said Denis Dunn, president, AT&T Delaware. “We consistently work to provide better coverage for the community and its first responders, and we’re investing in our wireless network across Delaware to accomplish that.”

These upgrades will also benefit public safety and first responders on FirstNet – public safety’s dedicated communications platform. FirstNet is bringing public safety communications into the 21st century with new, innovative capabilities to help those users stay safe and save lives.

FirstNet is being built with AT&T in a public private partnership with the First Responder Network Authority. It’s designed to help first responders in Delaware and across the country connect to the critical information they need – when they need it – so they can keep themselves and the communities they serve safer.

AT&T is committed to investing in their networks in Delaware. From 2016 to 2018, nearly \$50 million in its Delaware wireless and wired networks. These investments boost reliability, coverage, speed and overall performance for residents and their businesses.

“Our entire company and family could not be prouder of Melissa’s work and the role she has played in the success of our stores,” said Chris Kenny, President and CEO of Delaware Supermarkets, Inc. “As a second-generation grocer, she understands our market, our customers and what our work means to the communities we serve. There could not be a better person to lead our company into the future.”

Mountaire First Chicken Company to Become One Health Certified™

Mountaire Farms has become the first chicken company in the United States to become approved in One Health Certified™, a new com-

prehensive animal care program that is verified by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

One Health Certified™ focuses on five core areas of animal production: disease prevention, veterinary care, responsible antibiotic use, animal welfare, and environmental impacts. It was developed by a coalition of technical experts from protein companies as well as nonprofit organizations and universities and is

now administered by the National Institute of Antimicrobial Resistance Research (NIAMRRE) hosted by Iowa State University. Mountaire suc-



cessfully completed USDA audits in November of 2019 at all its production facilities, including hatcheries, feed mills, grow out, and harvest plants, verifying that the company was complying with the strict new guidelines.

“This is a positive move forward for animal agriculture and we are proud to be a part of it,” said Phillip Plylar, president of Mountaire Farms. “This program provides transparency, increased areas of accountability, covers multiple proteins, and does it all with one label. This is something our customers have been asking for and we believe is the right thing to do for them, the animals in our care, and for the environment.”

Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield Delaware awarded “Best Place to Work for LGBTQ Equality” from the Human Rights Campaign Foundation

Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield Delaware strives to be a workplace where all employees can bring their whole selves to work and to know that they are appreciated and welcome as unique individuals. In recognition of Highmark Delaware’s supportive and inclusive culture for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer or questioning employees, the company has earned distinction as a “Best Place to Work for LGBTQ Equality” from the Human Rights Campaign Foundation.

Highmark Delaware qualified for the award for the first time this year and received the top score of 100 points. The 2020 national Corporate Equality Index benchmarks corporate policies and practices pertinent to LGBTQ employees, helping businesses to compare themselves to those that are leaders in diversity and inclusion.

Newsbites

“Being recognized by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation is a huge honor for our company. It is a testament to Highmark Delaware’s commitment to support our employees and their families, and to serve our members and community,” said Nick Moriello, president of Highmark BCBS Delaware.

Frontier Airlines returns to Wilmington – New Castle Airport with nonstop flights to Orlando right in time for summer vacation

Low-fare carrier Frontier Airlines today announces its return to Wilmington - New Castle Airport (ILG) with new non-stop service to Orlando beginning right in time for the busy summer travel season. To celebrate this new route, Frontier is offering fares as low as \$29*, which are available now at FlyFrontier.com.

“We’re thrilled to bring our unique brand of low fares and friendly service to Wilmington – New Castle Airport and offer the only commercial service from Delaware,” said Daniel Shurz, senior vice president of commercial for Frontier Airlines. “We recognize the demand for affordable air travel in Delaware and are happy to offer non-stop flights to Orlando this summer, making trips to the most popular leisure destination in the U.S. even more convenient and attractive.”

“We’re pleased to welcome Frontier back to the State of Delaware and the Wilmington – New Castle Airport,” said Governor John Carney. “We’ve made significant infrastructure investments at the airport, and Frontier’s return will give Delawareans and travelers in the region a low-cost, convenient way to travel with their families.”

“We’re excited that Frontier Airlines has chosen to return to Delaware and

bring its low-fare, quality service back to the residents and visitors to the Delaware Valley region,” said Thomas J. Cook, Executive Director of the Delaware River and Bay Authority (DRBA), operators of Wilmington – New Castle Airport (ILG). “The Airport is in a perfect location between Philly and Baltimore, offering customers the option to forego the hassles of a big city airport. We want to be the airport of choice for people in Delaware, South Jersey, Pennsylvania and Maryland who seek both low fares and a convenient airport experience.”

“The Wilmington – New Castle Airport is all about convenience,” said Stephen D. Williams, Deputy Executive Director and Airports Director for the DRBA. “During the past four years, the Authority has methodically made significant infrastructure improvements at ILG knowing that commercial airline service would one day return to Delaware. With the help of our Congressional delegation, we were able to upgrade, enlarge, and strengthen the terminal apron to better accommodate multiple commercial aircraft simultaneously. In addition, the Authority spent more than \$5 million to enhance the terminal auto parking lots and is currently improving the passenger terminal facility. The foundation is here for commercial air service to be successful.”

Union Hospital Joins ChristianaCare

Union Hospital is officially a part of ChristianaCare, as ChristianaCare and Affinity Health Alliance officials today announced a final agreement that integrates Affinity Health Alliance and its subsidiaries into Delaware’s largest, most innovative health care provider.

“ChristianaCare and Union Hospital have long shared a deep commitment to serving the community,” said Janice E. Nevin, M.D., MPH, ChristianaCare president and CEO. “This integration will advance our ability to make a positive impact on the health of every person in every community we serve. That includes providing high-quality, safe and affordable hospital care when people need it—and it also includes a wide array of services, partnerships and technology to help people achieve their best health and manage chronic conditions where they live, work and play. We’re incredibly excited to welcome the caregivers of Union Hospital as we join together in service to the greater Cecil County community.”

Union Hospital becomes ChristianaCare’s third hospital, alongside Christiana Hospital in Newark, Del., and Wilmington Hospital in Wilmington, Del. While Union is the first ChristianaCare hospital across state lines, the two organizations overlap in the geographic areas they serve, and they have a history of collaboration in meeting the clinical service needs of the Cecil County community.

M. Davis & Sons, Inc. Celebrates 150 Years in Business

M. Davis & Sons, an award-winning company, has been building, installing and servicing corporate facilities for five generations. The company is celebrating its 150 years in business in 2020.



With humble beginnings as a tin-smith shop in 1870, M. Davis & Sons has evolved to include more than 475 employees with a commitment to providing safety and quality craftsmanship. M. Davis & Sons started with primarily providing services to the Delaware paper mills and DuPont, and have since greatly expanded, working for large pharmaceutical companies including AstraZeneca, and food and beverage companies including Delaware's own Dogfish Head Brewery. M. Davis & Sons has served as an employer to residents in Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Maryland for decades. They provide apprenticeship programs for the State of Delaware because of a strong, ongoing desire to grow careers in the trades.

M. Davis & Sons also celebrated 10 years of being certified with the Women's Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC) at the end of 2019, which is the largest 3rd party certifier of women owned businesses. The company attributes much of their growing success to receiving their certification and has since started their own Supplier Diversity program to work with diverse vendors to identify opportunities within M. Davis. In doing so, they continue to promote economic growth and community development.

Peggy Del Fabbro, CEO of M. Davis & Sons, Inc. reflects on the company's 150-year anniversary by saying, "This has been the most fascinating 30 years of my life. We started out with a commitment to impeccable workmanship and a "Do What You Say You Are Going to Do" attitude towards every project while providing excellent customer service. Our beliefs are the same today. A big thank you to the hundreds of valued customers and partners that have played a major role in our growth and success."



Farmers of Salem is moving to Wilmington, Delaware, Central Business District

Farmers of Salem, a regional mutual insurance company founded in Salem County, N.J., in 1851, is relocating to Wilmington in 2021 and bringing 52 jobs to the city's Central Business District. An additional five jobs will be added by the company, which prides itself on providing superior service with personal attention, over the following three years.

Farmers of Salem plans to invest close to \$5.6 million in the purchase and renovation of an existing office building in Wilmington. The company already has identified and is in negotiations for a property and has been approved for \$399,252 in relocation support grants from the Delaware Strategic Fund.

"Farmers of Salem's investment shows Delaware's strength as a premier location for the financial services industry," said Governor John Carney. "This investment will support good-paying jobs for Delawareans and their families, and the continued growth of our state's economy. Businesses looking to grow and thrive choose Delaware because we have a lot to offer – from a strong and talented workforce, to a central location and excellent quality of life."

Farmers of Salem holds a rating of A- EXCELLENT from A.M. Best Co., an independent service that rates overall financial condition and operating performance of firms within the insurance industry. According to James R. Doherty, president and chief operating officer, the company was attracted to Delaware because of the state's labor market and favorable cost of doing business.

Working with the Delaware Prosperity Partnership team, Doherty and William A. Dine, senior vice president, corporate operations, presented Farmers' relocation plan to the Council on Development Finance (CDF) on Jan. 27. The CDF approved Farmers for a \$287,252 Performance Grant and a \$112,000 Capital Expenditure Grant, both from the Delaware Strategic Fund.

Wilmington Mayor Mike Purzycki recently hosted a meeting to welcome Farmers of Salem to the city. Purzycki is shown with James R. Doherty, Farmers of Salem president and chief operating officer; William A. Dine, Farmers of Salem senior vice president, corporate operations; Kurt Foreman, Delaware Prosperity Partnership president and chief executive officer; and Jeff Flynn, City of Wilmington Office of Economic Development director.

Blue Blaze Associates named winner of four 2019 MarCom Awards

MarCom Awards is an international creative competition that recognizes outstanding achievement by marketing and communication professionals. This year there were more than 6,500 entries from 20 countries.

Blue Blaze Associates, a women-owned, full-service marketing and design agency, was recently honored with four 2019 MarCom Awards: a Platinum Award, a Gold Award, and two Honorable Mention Awards.

“It is an honor to be the recipient of four MarCom awards, including the highly competitive Platinum and Gold awards,” comments Sandy Taccone, CEO of Blue Blaze Associates. “This is a noteworthy



achievement for Blue Blaze and recognizes our talented team, quality of work, and overall commitment to our clients and their needs.”

Food Bank of Delaware received a \$25,000 grant from Bank of America Charitable Foundation to fight hunger in Delaware

The Food Bank of Delaware received \$25,000 grant from the Bank of America Foundation to support the fight against hunger in Delaware. The \$25,000 will help the food bank distribute the equivalent of 50,000 meals and facilitate long-term solutions to the problems of hunger and poverty through community education and advocacy.

For more than two decades, Bank of America has supported the Food Bank of Delaware with grants totaling nearly \$2 million and countless employee volunteer hours and food drives for hunger

relief efforts, advancing long-term solutions that will help move individuals and families out of poverty.

AAA Research Finds Fatal Crashes Involving Drivers Who Test Positive for Marijuana Increase After State Legalizes Drug

A concerning number of Washington state drivers involved in fatal crashes are testing positive for recent use of marijuana, according to new research from the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety.

The share of drivers who, after a fatal crash, tested positive for active THC – the drug’s main psychoactive ingredient – has doubled since the state legalized marijuana in December 2012. AAA believes the increase raises important traffic safety concerns for drivers across the country, because recreational marijuana use is now legal in 11 states and Washington, D.C.

The latest AAA Foundation research found that between 2008 and 2012 – the five-year period before the drug was legal – an estimated 8.8% of Washington drivers involved in fatal crashes were positive for THC. That rate rose to 18% between 2013 and 2017.

The average number of THC-positive drivers increased, too. In the five years before legalization, an average of 56 drivers involved in fatal crashes each year were THC-positive. In the five years after legalization, the average jumped to 130.

“This study enabled us to review a full 10-years’ worth of data about the potential impact of marijuana on driving safety – and it raises significant concerns,” said Dr. David Yang, executive director of the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety. “Results from the analysis suggest that legalization of recreational use of marijuana may increase the rate of THC-positive drivers involved in fatal crashes.”

Nanticoke Health Services Officially Joins Peninsula Regional Health System

Nanticoke Health Services (NHS) of Seaford, DE, and Peninsula Regional Health System (PRHS), based in Salisbury, MD, announced that the affiliation of the two health services has passed final state and federal regulatory approval.

Nanticoke Memorial Hospital, the Nanticoke Physician Network, and all other Nanticoke healthcare services have joined the Peninsula Regional Health System. McCready Health of Crisfield, MD, is expected to merge later this year. The result is the creation of a revolutionary new health system designed to enhance inpatient, outpatient and emergency care, and wellness services across the entire Delmarva Peninsula.

“Healthcare systems are more frequently coming together to meet the challenges of an ever-evolving environment. We are proud to now have officially merged, and together as a new system we will be working throughout the region to better the health and wellness of Delmarva,” said Steve Leonard, Ph.D. MBA, FACHE, President/CEO of the Peninsula Regional Health System. “We continue to look for partners on this journey and are excited about McCready joining soon and the opportunities to grow that will follow.”