

News Release: Monday February 28, 2022

Contact: Charles Gray, Chairperson, Milford Community Parade

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Subject: Parade Committee Announces Theme and Fundraiser

Milford, DE- Milford Community Parade Committee has announced the 2022 Parade Theme as “Splish Splash”. The parade is organized by Milford Community Parades, Inc. and is scheduled for Wednesday evening, October 19, 2022. “What a wonderful world we live in with water all around us. The parade is a perfect vehicle to have memories and creativity come alive with the world that surrounds water,” exclaimed the parade chairperson, Charles Gray. “What comes to mind when you think of water? That time at the beach or on the bay, watching a movie with pirates, or diving under the sea to view the beautiful fish or swim with a turtle on the stream; or, even finding a dinglehopper. Fond memories of a childhood, a romantic boat ride on the river, or the monster that lurks under the deep ocean can easily provide excitement and enjoyment for all ages.” According to Mr. Gray, “The committee tries to create themes annually that are centered on a subject and can be easily interpreted various ways for adaptation...making it fun for a civic group young and mature to build floats or a business to promote their service or product with a little twist on the theme. Car enthusiasts can agree upon decorations and wardrobe choices to fit the theme. Marching bands can choose from familiar block buster movie songs. A family who wants to enter the parade in costume can choose famous characters or come as a school of fish. We have a tab at [www.milfordparade.com](http://www.milfordparade.com) for current year theme ideas that will remain available until September 30.”

The parade committee also has announced their first early fundraiser for Saturday, April 9, 2022. The fundraiser is a dance titled “Travel To The Past”. The music will center around the eras of the 50’s through the 80’s. Tickets are on sale for \$20 per person or \$25 per couple. Tickets must be purchased in advance at [www.milfordparade.com](http://www.milfordparade.com) through the link to Eventbrite ticket sales platform no later than

March 28, 2022. The dance will be held at the Milford Elks Lodge from 7:00pm-11:00pm. The Elks Lodge will have snacks such as hot dogs and nachos, water and soft drinks as well as a cash bar. Ticket proceeds will benefit the 2022 Milford Community Parade and snack/bar proceeds will benefit the Milford Elks Lodge annual program. Outside food and drink will not be permitted. Nostalgic photo backdrops will be provided as well as the opportunity to have your photo taken with a pic available to download provided by Lisa Hart Photography. Bill Martin, dance committee member and disc jockey, stated, "Everyone has been bottled up, ready to have fun. There is no better way than to dance to great music from the dancing eras and enjoy each other's company. We will have CDs as door prizes and a special "Escape From Cooking" raffle with a week's worth of dinner gift cards."

The Milford community has come together for an Autumn parade since 1938, as began by City of Milford Delaware Mayor Edward Evans. The parade has since grown from a couple marching bands to over 10 bands with special appearances previously by University bands, and Philadelphia string bands. Special surprise entries like a real elephant, larger than life size rhinoceros, two ox, Philadelphia string band captain's piece by a long time Milford native, Rosanna Messick, and family participants like the family of Patricia Clendaniel, another Milford native. The route started in the downtown area and has grown to a 1.7 mile route stretching the length of the City of Milford from middle school to high, passing over a train track, and river, as well as, through the downtown district and two counties. The parade is managed by an all-volunteer committee of citizens from Milford, Lincoln, and Milton. With the continuous support of the City of Milford, its departments and the business community, as well as Kent County, the committee has entertained families across the peninsula and have for the past five years provided those not able to attend in person to watch and listen to the parade in their homes through a live streaming service provided by local tv station, TVDelmarva , owner Colin Walls and Jim Weller of Weller's. "We are grateful for the investment TVDelmarva has made over the years to provide this service and for Jim Weller's positive and infectious attitude that anything is possible," commented

parade chairperson, Charles Gray. "Everyone from the committee, community, City departments, volunteers and participants come together for an evening of fun, joy and togetherness as a community."

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