

# BRANDYWINE

## COMMUNITY NEWS

EAST

SERVING BRANDYWINE HUNDRED

Volume 1, No. 37 • July 14, 2006

www.communitypub.com

## Archmere to name new student center after former headmasters

By Kevin Barrett  
Staff Reporter

A new student center on the Archmere Academy's campus, which was going to be named after the parents of convicted murderer Thomas Capano, will instead be named after two of the school's former headmasters.

The new student center will be known as the "McLaughlin/Mullen Student Life Center" in honor of Rev. Joseph

McLaughlin, the school's fifth headmaster who served from 1982 to 1996, and Rev. Timothy Mullen, an alumnus of Archmere who served as headmaster from 1996 until 2004.

The student center was, for a time, going to be named after Louis and Marguerite Capano Sr., Thomas Capano's parents, in recognition of a \$1 million donation made by their son Louis Capano Jr., a 1969 graduate of Archmere Academy, through a foundation he established on behalf of himself and his son.

Thomas Capano, who graduated from Archmere in 1967, was convicted in 1999 of murdering his mistress Anne Marie Fahey, scheduling secretary for Gov. Thomas Carper. Louis Capano Jr. and another brother, Gerard, admitted to helping Thomas Capano cover up the murder and received probation.

The decision not to name the building after the Capanos was made at a special

**UPDATE**

See ARCHMERE, page 2



Photo by James Boyle

Martin Harris (center) from the National Association of Counties presents the Center for Sustainable Communities Award and a check to Claymont leaders (left to right) Brett Saddler of the Claymont Renaissance Development Corporation, Councilman John Cartier (D-Penny Hill), Councilman Robert Weiner (R-Chatham), Council President Paul Clark and County Executive Christopher Coons.

## Claymont receives national award for renaissance project

By Jesse Chadderdon  
Staff Reporter

Calling Claymont redevelopment efforts on target "for a great sustainable community," Martin Harris, of the National Association of Counties, presented county officials and community planners with an award and \$5,000 for their efforts.

Harris said New Castle County was one of 12 municipalities to receive the

2005-2006 Center for Sustainable Communities Award, and one of four to receive a cash prize. The award, he said, is given to innovative county-led partnerships with both the private sector and community groups in developing economically prosperous, sustainable and socially equitable communities.

Claymont's redevelopment efforts have been ongoing for more than six years, as community leaders attempt to revitalize a community that has become

known for its gas stations and fast food restaurants rather than its neighborhoods and historical destinations.

The "renaissance" as it is called, centers on the concept of introducing pedestrian-friendly, mixed-use development along Philadelphia Pike.

The area has adopted its own set of design guidelines for new development, and a streetscape plan for Philadelphia Pike is planned, although it has been

See RIDE, page 28

### Inside

Your Fashion  
Pages 26, 27

### Index

Art & Entertainment . . .10, 11  
Business . . . . .12  
Calendar . . . . .20 - 23  
Classified . . . . .24, 25  
Education . . . . .13, 14  
Home Pages . . . . .17, 18  
Obituary . . . . .10  
Opinion . . . . .19  
Police . . . . .15  
Sports . . . . .9

### Delivery issues?

To report problems with delivery of the Community News, contact John Wisniewski, JW Distributions, at 302-530-3411 or e-mail jwdist@verizon.net

Our new Brandywine Office is in  
Concord Square, 4239 Concord Pike  
Wilmington, DE 19803  
302-479-0540 • 302-449-2016  
www.LongandFoster.com



If you're looking for the road  
to financial success...

...it's the one that leads  
to Long & Foster!



Contact Ginger Turssline at  
302-479-0540 to schedule a  
confidential meeting.



# Brandywine Hundred man rides 621 miles through Alps

## 'Fireflies' raise money for Leukemia research

By Kevin Barrett  
Staff Reporter

Brandywine Hundred resident Bob Steele cycled 1000 kilometers – 621.37 miles - through the French Alps, beginning on the shores of Lake Geneva and ending in the French city of Cannes, to raise money for Leukemia research.

Known as "The Fireflies Ride", the trip in which Steele participated took place from June 12 to June 21st. The riders, known as "Fireflies," raise money for Leuka, a charity established to support a research and treatment unit for leukemia at Hammersmith Hospital in London. The "Fireflies" gained their name in 2000, the first year the trip was held, after a procession of glowing fireflies led the riders down a steep mountain in the pitch black.

Steele, an orthopaedic surgeon with First State Orthopaedics, said he first learned of the "The Fireflies Ride" through his brother-in-law, Andy Carroll, a London-based music composer. Carroll broke his wrist and unable to participate in this year's ride.

A cyclist and a former runner, Steele, 57, said he'd always been fascinated by the road bicycle race, "Tour de France". After learning about the "The Fireflies Ride", Steele said he was immediately interested in participating mostly because many of the roads traveled throughout the ride were the same roads traveled in the "Tour de France."

Securing the opportunity to ride with the "Fireflies" was difficult, Steele said, because there were more people interested in participating than there were spots available.

In addition, he said, most of the other riders – of which there were about 50 - are involved in the film and entertainment industry in one form or another. His brother-in-law, for example, composes music for films and television commercials. The primary sponsor of "The Fireflies Ride" is RSA Films.

Steele said, however, that Carroll put in a good word for him, and Steele also contacted the "Fireflies" and explained to them that he was an orthopedic surgeon. He was given a position, which he said was beneficial to the other riders because he ended up treating a broken cheekbone, wrist, and pelvis.

"I felt honored and privileged to be

able to go," Steele said. "I still do."

Although he regularly cycles several times a week, Steele said that after he found out in January that he would be participating in the ride, he started cycling even more – averaging at about 150 miles a week.

No amount of preparation, he said, could have prepared him for riding up and down the mountains Alps, however. Traversing one of the mountains, he said, involved an ascent of 16 miles up to its summit, which was located at over 9000 feet above sea level. Overall, the trip consisted four days riding, followed by a day of rest at a place called La Grave, and then another four days of riding. Throughout the trip, the riders stayed at hotels, which were secured by a volunteer "location manager", who was French. While the course was difficult, he enjoyed the journey largely because he was riding the roads on which so many major bike tours have been.

"For me - from that point of view - that was special," Steele said.

In addition, he said, the scenery was "stunningly beautiful". The Alps at the time of year that he went were particularly beautiful, he said, describing dairy cows wandering lush, flower-filled meadows and the snow melting at the top of the mountains. The weather, he said, was cooperative...it rained only rained two of the days.

Steele, who is native of England, said there was a tremendous sense of camaraderie among all of the riders, the majority of whom were European. Because it wasn't a race – its primary purpose was to raise money for cancer research – there was virtually no competition between the riders. He said it was routine that, if only one mountain was to be traversed in a day, the entire pack would wait at the top until the slowest rider reached the peak. Often, the strongest riders would stay behind and ride with the slowest riders, and he said it was often the slowest riders that got the biggest cheers.

"Everybody was very caring," Steele said. "Everyone was very concerned with everyone else."

Upon finishing the course, Steele said he was elated and felt a tremendous sense of accomplishment.

A champion runner at Oxford University, Steele said he was able to run



Dr. Bob Steele sets off during the second-to-last day of his 621-mile ride through the French Alps.

a mile in four minutes and three seconds. Nonetheless, he considers finishing "The Fireflies Ride" to be his greatest athletic achievement. He said he thinks a few people thought he was crazy for wanting to participate in such a grueling ride, but overall his family, friends, and colleagues at First State Orthopaedics were very supportive.

Steele, who raised about \$4,000 for the charity and paid his own travel expenses throughout the trip, said he hopes to participate in the ride again. The next time he hopes to take his wife, Gaba, along with him.

"It was certainly a life-changing experience," Steele said.

More information about "The Fireflies Ride" is available at [www.thefirefliesride.com](http://www.thefirefliesride.com).



Dr. Bob Steele sits on his bike during the Fireflies ride in Europe.

### CLAYMONT – from page 1

delayed because of funding issues at the Delaware Department of Transportation.

Last month, the New Castle County Council approved a 66-acre redevelopment project for the Brookview Townhome site, which will feature 1,200 housing units, as well as shops, restaurants, parkland and transit access. A central component to that plan is a guarantee by developer Commonwealth-Setting to provide 240 workforce housing units with price caps.

"Our selection as a Sustainable Community Award winner is a tribute to our county leaders, partners and community," said Councilman Robert Weiner (R-Chatham), who has helped lead the community planning process. "As chair of the National Association of Counties Sustainability Leadership Team, I am particularly pleased that my own county embodies the pillars of sustainable commu-

nities – economic enhancement, environmental stewardship and social well-being."

The \$5,000 prize, which was granted to the county, was passed on to the Claymont Renaissance Development Corporation (CRDC) for planning efforts at a June 27 ceremony at the Claymont Community Center.

"It's our mission to coordinate the redevelopment and revitalization here in Claymont," said CRDC President Brett Saddler. "This award reflects the hard work of the community and of our government officials and business leaders."

County Executive Chris Coons said he hoped the efforts in Claymont could be duplicated in other parts of the county.

"I think this is a positive model for New Castle County, but also for communities throughout the nation," he said. "This is proof that results can be achieved as the outgrowth of a lot of terrific, dedicated energy on the part of a lot of people."

**Our new Brandywine office in  
Concord Square, 4239 Concord Pike  
Wilmington, DE 19803  
302-479-0540 § 302-834-3431  
[www.LongandFoster.com](http://www.LongandFoster.com)**



**Long & Foster welcomes...**



**Rhen Keen**  
Specializing in residential sales, Rhen lives in Newark with his 2 children. With a strong background in the mortgage industry and many successful years of sales in New Castle County, he looks forward to helping his past clientele and new clients as well. His direct line is (302) 312-5593, or e-mail: [rhen.keen@longandfoster.com](mailto:rhen.keen@longandfoster.com)

**David Larsarczyk**  
David specializes in residential and commercial properties in the Middletown and Bear areas, and resides in Middletown with his wife and 6 children. He brings many years of negotiating experience to every real estate transaction, and can be reached at (302) 388-3687. His e-mail address: [david.larsarczyk@longandfoster.com](mailto:david.larsarczyk@longandfoster.com)



*Listening... Innovating... Leading... Growing*