# *UPDATE #2- VICTIM IDENTIFIED* Delaware State Police Arrest Millsboro Man for Murder- Bridgeville

***Bridgeville, DE-*** Delaware State Police have identified the female victim who died during a shooting incident on December 22, 2021, as ***Hilda Donaway, 70, of Bridgeville.***

On December 22, 2021, at approximately 6:18 p.m., troopers were dispatched to the 11000 block of Abbys Way, for a reported shooting. The investigation revealed **Ronald L. Donaway,74, of Millsboro,** responded to the residence which was occupied by his ex-wife, Hilda Donaway and her 23-year-old grandson. While outside, Donaway began shooting with a rifle into the windows of the living room, kitchen, and bedrooms. Hilda was struck by gunfire in the kitchen where she died from her wounds. As Donaway was shooting into the residence, the grandson fled out a bedroom window to escape and was uninjured. The suspect then entered the home for a short period of time before fleeing the area in a black Kia. As troopers were responding to the scene, a traffic stop was conducted on Donaway's vehicle at the entrance of the community and he was taken into custody without incident.

This incident remains under investigation by the Delaware State Police Homicide Unit. Anyone with information to assist with the investigation is asked to contact Det. Mark Csapo by calling 302-741-2729 or emailing mark.csapo@delaware.gov.

*Update #1* Delaware State Police Arrest a Millsboro Man for Murder- Bridgeville

Delaware State Police Conducting Criminal Investigation- Bridgeville

If you or someone you know is a victim or witness of a crime or have lost a loved one to a sudden death and are in need of assistance, the Delaware State Police Victim Services Unit/Delaware Victim Center is available to offer you support and resources 24 hours a day through a toll-free hotline 1800 VICTIM-1. (1-800-842-8461). You may also email the Victim Services Unit at DSP_VictimServicesMail@delaware.gov

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Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal Heather Pepper

Released: 122421 1230

-End-

# Troopers Investigate a Fatal Two Car Motor Vehicle Collision- Smyrna

***Smyrna, DE-*** Delaware State Police are investigating a fatal two car motor vehicle collision that occurred Thursday evening in Smyrna.

On December 23, 2021, at approximately 5:42 p.m., a 2006 Ford Taurus was traveling southbound on US-13 in the dedicated left-turn lane at the intersection of Spring Meadow Drive and Hickory Ridge Road. A flashing red arrow was displayed for the left-turn lane as the 82-year-old female driver intended to turn left onto Spring Meadow Drive. At the same time, a 70-year-old female was operating a 2019 Chevrolet Equinox northbound on US-13 in the same area. As the Equinox approached the intersection, the driver of the Ford began to turn left, crossing directly into the path of the Equinox resulting in the front left of the Equinox striking the right side of the Ford. Following the collision, both vehicles came to rest near the entrance to Spring Meadow Drive.

The Ford Taurus was driven by an 82-year-old Smyrna woman. She was properly restrained and transported to an area hospital with non-life-threatening injuries, where she was treated and released.

An 82-year-old Smyrna man was properly restrained in the front right seat of the Ford. Unfortunately, he sustained fatal injuries and died as a result of the collision. Identification is pending notification to the next of kin.

A 70-year-old female from Clayton was operating the Equinox. She was properly restrained and transported to an area hospital with non-life-threatening injuries, where she was treated and released.

US-13, in the area of the collision, was shut down for approximately 3.5 hours as the investigation was conducted.

This collision remains under investigation by the Delaware State Police Troop 3 Collision Reconstruction Unit. Any individuals who witnessed the crash are asked to contact Cpl/3 Joseph Lane by calling 302-698-8457. Information may also be provided by calling Delaware Crime Stoppers at 1-800-TIP-3333 or via the internet at http://www.delaware.crimestoppersweb.com.

If you or someone you know is a victim or witness of a crime or have lost a loved one to a sudden death and are in need of assistance, the Delaware State Police Victim Services Unit/Delaware Victim Center is available to offer you support and resources 24 hours a day through a toll-free hotline 1800 VICTIM-1. (1-800-842-8461). You may also email the Victim Services Unit at DSP_VictimServicesMail@delaware.gov

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Released:122421 0100

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# Troopers Investigate Fatal Single-Vehicle Crash-Georgetown

***Georgetown, DE-*** Delaware State Police are investigating a fatal single-vehicle crash that occurred Thursday afternoon in Georgetown.

On December 23, 2021, at approximately 1:36 p.m., a 2002 Honda Civic was traveling westbound on Vaughn Road, approaching a sharp right curve. For unknown reasons, the driver, a 42-year-old Georgetown woman, failed to negotiate the curve and exited the south edge of the road before swerving right in an attempt to re-enter the roadway. As the Civic re-entered Vaughn Road, the driver overcorrected to the left, and the car began skidding and exited the north edge of the road. It continued to slide through the grass, and the front right struck a tree causing the Civic to rotate clockwise and come to rest facing north.

The 42-year-old Georgetown woman was not properly restrained and transported to an area hospital with serious injuries.

A 31-year-old Millsboro man was seated in the right front seat and not properly restrained. He was transported to an area hospital where he died from his injuries. Identification is pending notification to next of kin.

A 53-year-old Georgetown man was seated in the right rear seat and not properly restrained. He was transported to an area hospital with serious injuries.

This crash remains under investigation by the Delaware State

Police Troop 7 Collision Reconstruction Unit. Any witnesses are asked to contact Cpl/3 Kenneth Argo by calling 302-703-3264. Information may also be provided by calling Delaware Crime Stoppers at 1-800-TIP-3333 or via the internet at http://www.delaware.crimestoppersweb.com.

Vaughn Road in the area of the collision was shut down for approximately 4.5 hours while the investigation was conducted.

If you or someone you know is a victim or witness of a crime or have lost a loved one to a sudden death and are in need of assistance, the Delaware State Police Victim Services Unit/Delaware Victim Center is available to offer you support and resources 24 hours a day through a toll-free hotline 1800 VICTIM-1. (1-800-842-8461). You may also email the Victim Services Unit at DSP_VictimServicesMail@delaware.gov

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Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal Heather Pepper

Released: 122421 0005

-End-

# *Traffic Advisory* Delaware State Police Investigating Serious Crash- Smyrna

**Smyrna** – Delaware State Police are on the scene of a serious motor vehicle crash that occurred at approximately 5:42 p.m. this evening, December 23, 2021, on Route 13 at Spring Meadow Drive.

As a result of the crash, northbound Route 13 is closed at the intersection with Spring Meadow Drive for emergency response vehicles on scene. Motorists are advised to avoid the area and seek alternate routes of travel. The road closure is anticipated to be lengthy, with no estimated time for a re-opening.

For updated road closure information and traffic conditions log on to:

http://www.deldot.gov/Traffic/travel_advisory/index.shtml#advisories

The investigation is in the early stages with further details being released as they become available.

*Presented by Public Information Officer, Senior Corporal Jason Hatchell*

Released: 122321 1855

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# Frankford Man Arrested on Multiple Criminal Charges for

# Domestic Incident and Resisting Arrest- Frankford

***Frankford, DE-*** Delaware State Police arrested **Richard Howard, 37, of Frankford,** Wednesday night on criminal charges after being involved in a domestic incident and resisting arrest.

On December 22, 2021, at approximately 9:15 p.m., troopers were dispatched to the 34000 block of Echo Ct. for a domestic related complaint. The investigation determined Richard Howard had thrown a cell phone at his stepfather, causing a minor physical injury. When two troopers assigned to Delaware State Police Troop 4 attempted to take Howard into custody, he resisted arrest with force. During a significant struggle, both troopers were struck multiple times by Howard causing minor injury before eventually being taken into custody. The troopers did not require medical attention. Howard was not injured during the altercation.

He was transported to Delaware State Police Troop 4 where he was charged with the following crimes:

- Resisting Arrest With Force (Felony)
- Two Counts- Assault Third Degree
- Offensive Touching to Law Enforcement

Howard was arraigned in the Justice of the Peace Court #3 and committed to Sussex Correctional Institution on a $7,000.00 secured bond.

If you or someone you know is a victim or witness of a crime or have lost a loved one to a sudden death and are in need of assistance, the Delaware State Police Victim Services Unit/Delaware Victim Center is available to offer you support and resources 24 hours a day through a toll-free hotline 1800 VICTIM-1. (1-800-842-8461). You may also email the Victim Services Unit at DSP_VictimServicesMail@delaware.gov

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Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal Heather Pepper

Released: 122421 1530

-End-

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# *Update #1* Delaware State Police Arrest a Millsboro Man for Murder- Bridgeville

***Bridgeville, DE-*** Delaware State Police arrested a Millsboro man Wednesday night on murder and related charges after he shot his ex-wife as he fired multiple rounds into her residence.

On December 22, 2021, at approximately 6:18 p.m., troopers were dispatched to the 11000 block of Abbys Way, for a reported shooting. The investigation revealed **Ronald Donaway,74, of Millsboro,** responded to the residence which was occupied by his 70-year-old ex-wife and her 23-year-old

grandson. While outside, Donaway began shooting with a rifle into the windows of the living room, kitchen, and bedrooms. The 70-year-old female was struck by gunfire in the kitchen where she died from her wounds. As Donaway was shooting into the residence, the grandson fled out a bedroom window to escape and was uninjured. The suspect then entered the home for a short period of time before fleeing the area in a black Kia. As troopers were responding to the scene, a traffic stop was conducted on Donaway's vehicle at the entrance of the community and he was taken into custody without incident.

Ronald Donaway was transported to Delaware State Police Troop 5 and charged with Murder First Degree (Felony), Possession of a Firearm During the Commission of a Felony (Felony), Home Invasion (Felony), and Reckless Endangering First Degree (Felony). He was arraigned at Justice of the Peace Court #3 and committed to Sussex Correctional Institution in default of a $900,000.00 cash bond.

This incident remains under investigation by the Delaware State Police Homicide Unit. Anyone with information to assist with the investigation is asked to contact Det. Mark Csapo by calling 302-741-2729 or emailing mark.csapo@delaware.gov.

Delaware State Police Conducting Criminal Investigation-Bridgeville

If you or someone you know is a victim or witness of a crime or have lost a loved one to a sudden death and are in need of assistance, the Delaware State Police Victim Services Unit/Delaware Victim Center is available to offer you support and resources 24 hours a day through a toll-free hotline 1800 VICTIM-1. (1-800-842-8461). You may also email the Victim Services Unit at DSP_VictimServicesMail@delaware.gov

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Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal Heather Pepper

Released: 122321 1212

-End-

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# Delaware State Police Investigate Fatal Pedestrian Crash – Newark

**Newark–** Delaware State Police are investigating a fatal pedestrian crash that occurred early Thursday morning on westbound Pulaski Highway (Route 40) at the intersection to Rosetree Lane.

On Thursday, December 23, 2021, at approximately 12:45 a.m., a 2019 Jeep Cherokee operated by a 22-year-old male of Newark, DE, was traveling westbound Route 40 in the right thru lane east of Rosetree Lane. At this time a 35-year-old male from Chesapeake City, MD was walking westbound Route 40 in the middle of the right turn lane. The Jeep Cherokee merged into the right turn lane to enter a development, when the

pedestrian suddenly appeared in the path of the Jeep. The operator of the Jeep attempted to maneuver around the pedestrian, but the front left of the vehicle struck the pedestrian from behind. The pedestrian was projected forward in a westerly direction and came to rest in the middle of the right thru lane. The Jeep traveled several feet off the roadway and came to rest down an embankment.

The 35-year-old pedestrian was wearing dark clothing and was not equipped with any lighting device to make himself visible in the roadway. He was pronounced deceased at the scene. Identification of the victim is pending notification to the next of kin.

The 22-year-old operator of the Jeep did not sustain any injuries.

The roadway was closed for approximately 3 hours while the investigation was completed, and the roadway was cleared.

If you or someone you know is a victim or witness of crime or have lost a loved one to a sudden death and are in need of assistance, the Delaware State Police Victim Services Unit/Delaware Victim Center is available to offer you support and resources 24 hours a day through a toll free hotline 1800 VICTIM-1. (1-800-842-8461). You may also email the unit Director at debra.reed@state.de.us.

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Presented by Public Information Officer, Senior Corporal Jason Hatchell

Released 122321 1057

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# Delaware State Police Conducting Criminal Investigation- Bridgeville

***Bridgeville-*** Delaware State Police are currently conducting a criminal investigation on the 11000 block of Abby's Way, Bridgeville. As a result, there is an increased police presence in the area. This investigation is in the early stages but there is no threat to the safety of the community. Abby's Way is closed in the area of Oak Road as a result of this investigation. Additional information will be released once it becomes available.

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Presented by Public Information Officer, Senior Corporal Jason Hatchell

Released: 122221 1930

-End-

# *UPDATE*- Troopers Seek Public's Assistance Identifying Person of Interest in Shootings- Rehoboth Beach







***Rehoboth Beach —*** Delaware State Police are requesting the public's assistance with identifying a person of interest in connection to shooting incidents that occurred on November 21, 2021, outside two Rehoboth Beach businesses.

At approximately 12:06 a.m., troopers responded to The Pond Bar and Grill, located at 19266 Coastal Highway, for a report of subjects fighting in the parking lot. Within two minutes, Sussex County Emergency Operations Center (9-1-1) updated the responding troopers that shots were fired. Upon their arrival, it was determined one male victim had been shot during the ruckus, but had already left the area in a privately owned

vehicle and traveled to Beebe Medical Center for a non-life threatening gunshot wound to his leg. No other victims were located.

A search of the crime scene was conducted and 32 shell casings were located in the parking lot. Two vehicles were struck as well as the front window of the bar. It was later determined that a round struck a second floor room in the Comfort Inn next door.

At approximately 12:24 a.m. another call was received by the Emergency Operations Center advising there were shots fired at the Wawa located at 35436 Wolfe Neck Road, Rehoboth. In this incident, there were no reported victims of the gunfire and several empty shell casings were located outside the business in the parking lot.

Through the investigation, the pictured individual has been identified as a person of interest. Troopers are asking if anyone can provide information on the identity of the individual or information about the shooting incidents to contact Detective A. Bluto with Delaware State Police Troop 4 Criminal Investigation Unit by calling 302-752-3864. Information may also be provided by calling Delaware Crime Stoppers at 1-800-TIP-3333 or via the internet at http://www.delaware.crimestoppersweb.com.

If you or someone you know is a victim or witness of crime or have lost a loved one to a sudden death and are in need of assistance, the Delaware State Police Victim Services Unit/Delaware Victim Center is available to offer you support and resources 24 hours a day through a toll free hotline 1800 VICTIM-1. (1–800-842-8461). You may also email the Victim Services Unit at DSP_VictimServicesMail@delaware.gov.

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*Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal Heather Pepper*

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# Delaware State Police Investigating Fatal Industrial Accident- Milton

***Milton-*** Delaware State Police are investigating a fatal industrial accident that occurred yesterday.

The incident occurred on December 20, 2021, at approximately 2:11 p.m., when troopers were dispatched to Huff Road, Milton, in reference to an industrial accident. Investigation revealed that the victim, a 59-year-old male of Laurel, DE, was working for a tree company clearing a lot. The victim was cutting up a tree that was lying on the ground when his chainsaw became stuck. An excavator was then utilized by another employee to lift the tree so the victim could free his chainsaw. After recovering his chainsaw the victim turned to walk away when the tree snapped, and a portion struck the victim in the torso.

The victim was transported to Beebe Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries and was pronounced deceased.  The victim was turned over to the Delaware

Division of Forensic Science where an autopsy will be performed to determine the cause and manner of death.  Identification of the victim is pending notification to the next of kin.

The case continues to remain under investigation by the Delaware State Police Criminal Investigations Unit.

If you or someone you know is a victim or witness of crime or have lost a loved one to a sudden death and are in need of assistance, the Delaware State Police Victim Services Unit/Delaware Victim Center is available to offer you support and resources 24 hours a day through a toll-free hotline 1800 VICTIM-1. (1800 842-8461).  You may also email the unit Director at debra.reed@delaware.gov.

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