

# New malt company to open in Laurel this October

By Rachel Lord

A new malt company is planning to open in Laurel this coming October. Proximity Malt, a start-up malt company with another factory in Monte Vista, Col., is currently under construction on Alt. 13 between Laurel and Delmar. The site has been in development for use over a year, according to Amy Germershausen of Proximity's sales and marketing department, and will have the total capacity of 25,000 tons once completed. Though they will be

processing many different grains for any malt user, the focus will be on craft brewing and some food industries. On their website they state that "the Mid-Atlantic region is the largest winter barley-growing region in North America." Delaware was chosen for its "consistent barley production," and Laurel happened to be a great fit. "We really liked the site," Germershausen explained. "It had an existing grain elevator which wasn't the prettiest, [as] it had been abandoned for several years, but the concrete silos were sound,

and it's perfect for the various product segregation that we want to do with malt with our finished product." The company's second location being opened in Laurel will obviously have good effects on the town as well. Proximity Malt expects to hire around 20 full-time employees, and businesses would be able to get their malts from locally-produced barley. The company has already spoken with several breweries in the area, and encourage any others they have not spoken with to try their malt once they are up and running. As for the relationship between business and community, it has gotten off to a good start. "The whole concept of the company was around proximity," added Germershausen. "So we wanted to be close

to our raw material supply and close to our customers. We really are excited to be a part of Laurel." "We've had some really good contact with growers, with the agricultural community, with the small businesses in the area, and, eventually we hope, with our customers," she added, "and we've been working with various local and state officials to help with getting all the needed permitting done. From our perspective, it's been a very positive experience, and we're really looking forward to being a longterm member of the community." "We're very excited to get started, we're excited to be a part of the community, and we're looking forward to producing some really good malt."

## Firefighters hold annual legislative gathering

On Saturday, Oct. 28, the organizations of the Sussex County Fire Chiefs' Association and the Sussex County Volunteer Firefighters' Association will be hosting our Annual Legislative Gathering. This year's event will commence at 8:30 a.m. at the Delaware State Fire School Sussex Division, 22705 Park Ave., Georgetown.

you to experience what local firefighters do daily and it will be a great opportunity to generate photo opportunities. We will have trained firefighters and instructors at each area. Needless to say we will provide refreshments and time for the group to speak with fire officials present, critique the morning's activities as well as discuss issues among themselves. With respect for the guest's time and schedules we plan to have all activities completed by noon.

Our goal is to illustrate and demonstrate our fire training facility and incorporate participation of our government officials. We are going to train in our structural building, flammable gasses pad and our new vehicle firefighting prop. We are inviting all media outlets for public relations exposure. Our goal is for each of you to participate in any, if not all, of the training areas. Those interested in physically participating may contact your nearest Fire Chief so they may provide proper fitting fire gear (personal protective gear). We want

For further information please contact Terry Jester, Sussex County Firefighters 1st. V.P., at 302-270-8989 or Mike Lowe, Del. State Fire School, at 302-242-5789. We are proud of the job our volunteers do and want to show you how we do our job. We hope you all can attend. If any of you have difficulty getting fire gear please contact the committee and we will help.



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