

For Immediate Release

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Meals On Wheels Delaware Announces Inaugural Fundraiser “*The Culinary Classic*”

Prepare Your Palate For An Extraordinary Culinary Experience While Supporting A Worthy Cause

Tuesday, May 10, 2016 – Meals On Wheels Delaware is pleased to announce our inaugural event, *The Culinary Classic*, presented by Fulton Bank. *The Classic* will feature an intimate, multi-course dinner, a silent auction, and specialty cocktails. All proceeds will benefit homebound seniors and provide additional funding for the five meal-providing agencies throughout the state Meals On Wheels Delaware supports.

The Culinary Classic will take place Thursday, June 2, 2016 at the Heritage Shores Clubhouse, located in Bridgeville, Delaware, from 5:30 PM – 9:30 PM. Guests will start the night with specialty cocktails and hors d’ oeuvres on the terrace, and then will make their way to the ballroom for a seated second and third course. The night will conclude with a trip to the Sugar Beet Market for delectable desserts. Throughout the evening, guests will be able to enjoy a silent auction and entertainment by *Music for the Moment*. Each course will be prepared and served by one of the participating chefs, including Chef Ryan Cunningham of Abbott’s on Broad Creek, Chef Mark Buchanan of The Brick Hotel Restaurant & Tavern, Chef Frank Dubinski of Heritage Shores Club, and Chef Jason Ordway of Bonz Restaurant & Lounge. The chefs will present their dishes as they are served. Beverages to accompany the dishes will be provided by BreakThru Beverage of Delaware, Fuzzy Vodka, Mispillion River Brewing, and Painted Stave Distilling.

One of the local, culinary talents for the event is Chef Mark Buchanan, who has been in the hospitality industry for 29 years. He is celebrating his fourth anniversary at The Brick Hotel Restaurant and Tavern this month. Chef Mark has worked up and down the east coast, from

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Connecticut to Virginia, and before he joined the team at The Brick, he spent almost three years as the Sous Chef at Jessup's Tavern.

Another talented chef who will showcase his skills at the event is Chef Ryan Cunningham, who received his Culinary Arts Degree from Johnson & Wales University in 2000. After spending time at Fusion, Nage, and Bonz Steakhouse, Cunningham joined forces with Kevin Reading to open Abbott's Grill in 2009. As Executive Chef at Abbott's on Broad Creek, Cunningham focuses on putting his own unique spin on New American dishes, using fresh flavors and classic French technique.

"We are excited to kick off our new fundraiser in Sussex County," said Regina Dodds, Director of Events. "*The Culinary Classic* will continue the tradition of offering guests an opportunity to indulge in culinary excellence, while raising money in support of Delaware's homebound seniors. Meals On Wheels Delaware is incredibly grateful for the community's outstanding contributions to this event. The generosity of our neighbors and local businesses enables Meals On Wheels Delaware to raise funds to support nearly 4,000 homebound seniors statewide."

Entry to The Culinary Classic is \$75 per person, and tickets are available online at www.mealsonwheelsde.org. Meals On Wheels Delaware is also seeking to engage local businesses to sponsor the event. Additional information can be found online at www.mealsonwheelsde.org or by calling, 302-656-6451.

Meals On Wheels Delaware thanks the following sponsors and donors for their support of *The Culinary Classic*, Adams Radio Group, Clear Channel Outdoor, Delaware Electric Cooperative, Fulton Bank, The Lee Ann Wilkinson Group, Preston Automotive Group, Signarama, and WBOC.

About Meals On Wheels

The mission of Meals On Wheels Delaware is to ensure, through the provision of financial and human resources, that every eligible senior in the state of Delaware receives a hot, nutritious meal in their home. A nonprofit 501(c)3 organization, Meals On Wheels Delaware is a public/private partnership between the federal government, the state of Delaware, five meal-providing agencies, and thousands of volunteers from corporations, civic, religious and community groups. The organization provides additional financial and volunteer resources to meal-providing agencies, to ensure that no senior in Delaware must be put on a waiting list for meal service. Last year, Meals on Wheels volunteers delivered 664,810 hot, nutritious meals to nearly 4,000 homebound seniors statewide. This service gives recipients the gifts of health, independence, and companionship.

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