

# Newark Post

MARCH 22, 2019

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Read about the four candidates for city council

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# Mayoral candidates face off in debate

By **BROOKE SCHULTZ**  
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Relations with the University of Delaware and its students, development in the city and moving Newark forward – those were among the topics discussed at Tuesday's mayoral candidate forum.

Catherine Ciferni, Jerry Clifton, Brandon Farzad and Kasai Guthrie were able to discuss their ideas and plans for the future of Newark in front of a crowded room at the Newark Senior Center.

The candidate elected on

April 9 will succeed Mayor Polly Sierer, who chose not to seek a third term.

"As we hear all of the responses tonight, I'm noticing one thing and that's that we all pretty much, for the most part, agree on almost everything. Because this is a nonpartisan election, we can do that," Farzad, an aerospace engineer, told the audience in closing. "So you're not really voting on issues. You're voting on people and skills."

For Clifton, that is his 10 terms of experience on council, as well as a stint as

deputy mayor.

"I've learned the position of mayor is not an entry-level position. I've done that. It's not about on-the-job training. It's too critical of a position. And I've done the position," he said.

However, Ciferni, a progressive community activist, said that experience could keep Newark in a rut.

"I think that it's good to have a lot of experience, but I think it's also good to bring ideas and know-how,



NEWARK POST PHOTO BY JOSH SHANNON

Mayoral candidates Brandon Farzad, Kasai Guthrie, Jerry Clifton and Catherine Ciferni participate in a candidate forum on Tuesday.

See **MAYOR**

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## A show of solidarity



NEWARK POST PHOTO BY JOSH SHANNON

Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester holds up a photo of Mucaad Ibrahim, the 3-year-old boy killed in a mass shooting in New Zealand last week, during a prayer vigil at Masjid Isa Ibn-e-Maryam on Sunday evening. She and other officials attended the interfaith service at the Newark-area mosque to show support for the local Muslim community in the wake of the New Zealand attack. **To read more, turn to page 10.**

## Police, students meet over party law

By **JOSH SHANNON**

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As city council debated the controversial unruly gathering law last week, Councilman Chris Hamilton addressed the University of Delaware students who had packed into city hall to voice opposition to the ordinance.

Explaining he wants to create a better dialog between students and their neighbors, he encouraged students to contact him and, from the dais, recited his cellphone number for the audience members and those watching the livestream at home.

The students wasted no time using it. "My voicemail blew up. My texts blew up," he said last Friday, noting his

See **PARTY**

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## The week ahead

**Orchestra:** Tonight, 8 p.m., at Roselle Center for the Arts, 130 Amstel Ave. The University of Delaware Symphony Orchestra will perform. Tickets are \$15 adults; \$10 UD faculty/staff/alumni & seniors; \$5 students.

**Vendor and craft fair:** Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Shue-Medill Middle School, 1500 Capitol Trail. Vendors will sell homemade decor, fashion, jewelry, wreaths, candles, food and more. Proceeds will benefit the REACH program of the Christina School District.

**Student concert:** Saturday, 4 to 6 p.m. at Glasgow High School Auditorium, 1901 S. College Ave. See performances from students at Christiana High School, Glasgow High School, Newark High School, Gauger-Cobbs Middle School, Kirk Middle School and Shue-Medill Middle School.

**History Connections Series:** Sunday, 1 to 2:30 p.m., at White Clay Creek State Park Nature Center, 1475 Creek Road. Join historians Mike Ott and Andrea Cassel for a discussion of the Arc Corner Monument, as it signifies an interesting land swap between Pennsylvania and Delaware, and hike to the Arc Corner Monument, just around the corner from the Nature Center. Register at 302-368-6900. Free with paid entrance fee.

**City council:** Monday, 7 p.m., at city hall, 220 S. Main St. Council will vote on three development projects: the hotel proposed for Main Street, renovations to College Square and an assisted living facility planned for Barksdale Road.

**Referendum forum:** Monday, 6:30 p.m., at Newark High School Cafeteria A, 750 E. Delaware Ave. Representatives from the Delaware Legislature, and Christina School District officials and staff will discuss the role of referendums in public school funding, details of the 2019 operating referendum and why the referendum is important for students, schools and community.

**City council:** Tuesday, 7 p.m., at city hall, 220 S. Main St. Council will hold a special meeting to discuss parking.

**City council:** Wednesday, 7 p.m., at city hall, 220 S. Main St. Council will hold a special meeting to discuss student housing.

For more events, visit [newarkpostonline.com/calendar](http://newarkpostonline.com/calendar). To submit listings, go online or email [news@newarkpostonline.com](mailto:news@newarkpostonline.com). Information runs in the print edition as space is available.

# Council to vote on Main Street hotel plan, two other projects

By JOSH SHANNON

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City council will vote on three high-profile development projects Monday.

The meeting is set for 7 p.m. at city hall, 220 S. Main St. Members of the public will be able to voice their opinion on all three projects.

The most controversial project is a hotel planned for Main Street.

Lang Development Group is proposing a seven-story structure containing 144 hotel rooms, a restaurant, 19,500 square feet of office space and a parking garage at 96 E. Main St., across from the Academy Street intersection.

Lang would combine two properties, demolishing the former Abbott's Shoe Repair building and incorporating the facade of the historic Green Mansion, which is protected under the city's historic preservation law, into the new building.

The first three levels of the building would include the restaurant, hotel lobby and commercial office space in the front and parking in the back. Meanwhile, the top four floors would contain the hotel rooms. Part of the fourth floor would also include a deck with a pool and a patio.



SUBMITTED IMAGE

An artist's rendering shows the seven-story hotel Lang Development Group is proposing for 96 E. Main St.

Complicating the project is the hotel's impact on the city's pay-to-park Lot 3, which is made up of several privately owned parcels leased to the city for use as public parking.

If the project is approved, Lang will end the city's lease on the company's portion of Lot 3 and use the land for the hotel project. That would split the city's lot into two pieces and remove 73 spaces, more than a quarter of the lot.

The hotel project includes a 244-space parking garage, which will be privately managed and used for hotel guests and employees of the office tenants.

However, Lang pledged that excess parking would be made available to the public. There would be at least 36 spaces available to the public

at all times, and often more than 80 available, depending on the occupancy of the hotel.

Meanwhile, the owner of College Square Shopping Center is pitching a plan to redevelop the 46-acre site into a walkable, mixed-use complex featuring retail and residential space.

Renovations on the north side of College Square — where Acme and the former Sears Hardware are — began more than a year ago, and those buildings will remain.

The southern portion of the site, however, would look much different under the proposal.

The area would retain some retail space, while 305 apartments would be built in the southeast quadrant of the site, the portion that currently contains Hair Cuttery and Payless Shoes.

Most of the units would have one or two bedrooms, with a handful of three-bedroom units mixed in. The apartment complex would also feature a lounge/concierge area, leasing center, business center, fitness center, media room and an outdoor area with a pool.

Though developers can't legally restrict apartments to a certain population, an attorney for the developer said the apartments would be designed for young professionals and empty-nesters, not students.

Also on Monday's agenda is an assisted living facility proposed for 924 Barksdale Road, directly east of Handl-off Park and across the street from Newark Day Nursery.

The plan calls for 89 assisted living suites, including studio, one-bedroom and two-bedroom units.

Meanwhile, 26 memory care suites — some shared and some private — would accommodate patients suffering from dementia.

The three-story building would have a total of 137 beds, plus a common area that would feature a café, beauty salon, theater, fitness center, arts-and-crafts room and other amenities.

### Special meetings planned for Tuesday and Wednesday

City council will also hold special meetings Tuesday and Wednesday, both beginning at 7 p.m. at city hall.

On Tuesday, council will discuss and possibly vote on recommendations from a committee that spent several months studying the parking issue in Newark.

Short-term items proposed for this year include negotiating a lease agreement with the University of Delaware to use UD lots for employee parking and spending \$80,000 on consultants to develop a marketing strategy and study "impediments to creative parking solutions."

In 2020, the proposal calls for developing a mobile app to display parking information, reducing or eliminating parking requirements for developers and negotiating leases with private parking lot owners to increase the supply of public parking. Long-term ideas, slated for 2021 or later, include creating a downtown shuttle bus and building a parking garage.

Wednesday's meeting will focus on student housing issues. Council will discuss a wide range of ideas and possible solutions.



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NEWARK POST PHOTOS BY JOSH SHANNON

President and CEO Patricia Beebe gives a tour of the Food Bank of Delaware's new headquarters on Monday.



The Food Bank of Delaware's new headquarters includes a large commercial kitchen.

# Food bank preparing for move to new headquarters

**By JOSH SHANNON**  
jshannon@chespub.com

Giving a tour of the Food Bank of Delaware's new headquarters, President and CEO Patricia Beebe couldn't contain her excitement. "Can you believe this? It's, like, pinch me," Beebe said Monday. "This is just an incredible space."

The new building – located at 222 Lake Drive in Pencader Corporate Center off Del. 896 near Glasgow – has been a long time com-

ing for the organization. The food bank bought the property in 2016 and has spent the past three years raising money and renovating the former UPS facility. Construction is largely finished, but the facility is empty, save for commercial kitchen equipment and row after row of shelving. Soon, though, that will change, as the organization begins the arduous task of moving its operations approximately 4 miles down the road from its current location on Garfield Way.

The move will begin April 8, and the new facility will be fully operational by April 15. However, it will take up to 45 days to move all the food from the old warehouse to the new one. Beebe emphasized the food bank didn't decide to move simply to spread out its current operations. Instead the new facility – which is double the size of the current one – will allow the organization to offer more services to the public. "We're increasing everything we as an organization

are able to do," she said. The facility includes a commercial kitchen, classroom space, a clean room to repurpose produce and bulk food donations, a volunteer room that is double the size of the current one, office space and more. It will allow the food bank to accept more fresh produce donations and increase volunteerism by 45 percent. The new warehouse also includes an on-site food pantry that will allow those in need to pick up food. Outside the building, on

the 25-acre property, is a farm that is already taking root. The farm will yield thousands of pounds of produce as part of a yearlong workforce training program that will teach students how to run a farm and help them get a job in the agriculture industry. Two other workforce development programs, the popular culinary school and the new warehouse and logistics course, will be housed at the facility as well. In May, the food bank's

café will open, offering breakfast and lunch for sale to volunteers, employees and the general public. "There are 5,000 people who work in this industrial park," Beebe said. "We're planning to be really busy." In nice weather, customers will be able to eat outside and enjoy the view of the farm and a lake on the property. So far, the food bank has raised just over \$11 million for the project and is looking to raise another \$2.7 million.

## The Post Stumper

ANSWERS ON PAGE 14

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- 1 Knock

4 "The Thin Man" dog

8 Tabloid writing

12 Post-op area

13 Pace

14 Alike (Fr.)

15 Sushi fish

17 "Hi, sailor!"

18 "Burnt" crayon color

19 Melody

21 Ordinal suffix

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26 Looks intently

29 Chaps

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33 Mythical birds

34 Capote nickname

35 Stable diet?

36 Hill of "Moneyball"

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48 Saltwater fish

50 Mata \_\_\_

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55 Fixed
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2 Antioxidant berry

3 Brownish purple

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5 Jazzy Vaughan

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7 Country stores?

8 June birthstone

9 "This tastes awful!"

10 Asian language

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42 Privation

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44 Coup d' \_\_\_

45 HBO rival

46 Possessed

47 Hot temper

49 Comic Philips



# Newark Police report 40 arrests over St. Patrick's Day weekend

By JOSH SHANNON

jshannon@chespub.com

The Newark Police Department issued 40 arrests and citations over St. Patrick's Day weekend, a number officials say is roughly on par with last year.

"In terms of recent years, it was relatively similar," said Lt. Andrew Rubin, an NPD spokesman. "But, if you go back five or six years, we had a lot of problems."

There were 51 arrests in 2018, 13 in 2017 and 58 in 2016.

"Keep in mind that St. Patrick's Day was a Saturday last year, and other years it was not on a weekend at all," Rubin said. "The weather also plays into how many people are out and about and causing issues. These numbers from years past are from the weekend closest to St. Patrick's Day, where we generally see an increase due to St. Patrick's Day festivities at the bars and around Newark."

This year, St. Patrick's Day weekend drew additional attention because it came just days after city council passed a law aimed at cracking down on large parties in neighborhoods.

The ordinance created a new offense called unruly gathering, which is triggered when police observe three or more nuisance behaviors at a residence where four or more people have gathered. Those offenses include minors consuming alcohol, noise, disorderly premises, people on the roof, more than 150 people present without a permit, obstruction of public rights-of-way, public drunkenness, fights, criminal mischief, public urination, littering, drug use, trespassing on neighboring property and any other conduct that "threatens the health, safety, good and quiet order of the city."

The law addressed ongoing concerns from residents of Old Newark but prompted a backlash from students, who organized a petition drive against the law.

Rubin said no one was cited under the new law this weekend, but it's too soon to tell what impact it may have.

"I spoke with the supervisor working this weekend," he said. "He felt that the number of residential parties in general appeared to be down from years past. Again, whether this ordinance is the cause of that is unknown."

One of the more notable incidents over the weekend came when two people at the Rittenhouse Station apartments on South Main Street broke out a second-story window screen and urinated out the window, exposing their genitals to a woman walking past, Rubin said. Andrew Fahey and Rory Parker – both 19-year-old residents of Croton-on-Hudson, N.Y. – were charged with indecent exposure, conspiracy, disorderly conduct, criminal mischief and underage drinking.

In total, police issued the following charges over the weekend: two conspiracy, three criminal mischief, four disorderly conduct, three DUI, two indecent exposure, one loitering, one menacing, four noise violation, three offensive touching, one possession of a controlled substance, three open container of alcohol, four possession of marijuana, one public intoxication, three resisting arrest, one trespassing on railroad tracks, two underage drinking and two unlawfully on a rooftop.

Officers also issued two warnings for noise and responded to four incidents where a person had overdosed or passed out due to alcohol consumption. All four people were taken to the hospital.

NPD had additional officers working throughout the weekend and will continue to do so throughout the spring, Rubin said.

"Every spring, as the weather gets warmer, Newark Police see an increase in calls for service related to consumption of alcohol, noise violations and other order maintenance offenses," he said. "Therefore, we frequently change our patrol tactics to correspond with this increase in calls for service. We stagger additional officers working both days and nights each weekend to meet the demand."

## Police searching for man who exposed himself

Police are searching for a man who exposed his genitals to a woman walking down a Newark road last week.

The incident happened around 10 a.m. March 15 on New London Road, near Scotch Pine Road, about half a mile north of Fairfield Shopping Center, according to Lt. Andrew Rubin, a spokesman for the Newark Police Department.

The flasher was sitting in a car pulled onto the shoulder of the road and called the woman over to ask for directions as she walked past. When the woman approached the car, the man has his pants down and ex-

posed himself, Rubin said.

The flasher was described as a black man, 25 to 30 years old, clean shaven and wearing a black hoodie. He was driving a small black car, possibly a Toyota Camry with Maryland tags.

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to call Officer Justin Roberts at 302-366-7100, ext. 3493 or jroberts@newark.de.us.

## Police: Disoriented nude man arrested on UD campus

A disoriented man who was walking around the University of Delaware campus naked Sunday morning is facing charges, authorities said.

UD Police officials identi-

fied the man as 30-year-old Ryan R. Krepol, of Hockessin.

Krepol was found disoriented and walking down The Green near Sharpe Laboratory, UDPD said in an unsigned statement. He had facial injuries "that appeared to be self-inflicted and sustained as the result of drug use," police said.

After being treated at Christiana Hospital, Krepol was charged with lewdness, burglary, disorderly conduct and possession of controlled substances.

Police did not detail where the alleged burglary occurred, nor did they release Krepol's mug shot and bail information.

Officials did note, however, that Krepol is not affiliated with UD.



COURTESY OF NEWARK POLICE DEPARTMENT

## Mike Conomon, 911 dispatcher, retires

After 30 years of service, Mike Conomon (right) retired from his role as a 911 dispatcher for the Newark Police Department last week. He was a member of the New Castle County Critical Incident Stress Management Team and provided services to first responders after a particularly tough call for service. In his retirement, Conomon will be umpiring the baseball field.

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# Newark Charter students take part in Pi Day tradition

By BROOKE SCHULTZ  
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When it comes to the mathematical constant pi, the commonly known digits 3.14 are just a small slice in the scheme of things.

Newark Charter School students proved that last week as part of their celebration of Pi Day, which is March 14, or 3/14.

The students took up the challenge to recite as many digits of pi as they could, a school tradition that dates back 18 years.

In their math classes, fifth-graders who could recite the first 10 digits – 3.141592653, if you were wondering – earned a slice of pie, but many went far beyond that.

Sudipa Chowdhury was the reigning champ in teacher Marissa Tenebruso's math class, successfully reciting 190 digits of pi.

"This is the day of all days," Tenebruso said as the last couple of students prepared to compete.

The students rattled off numbers while Tenebruso followed along, highlighting each correct string of numbers.

When each had successfully earned their slice of pie, or breezed past that marker to name more numbers, Tenebruso told the students they'd done a great job.

"And you questioned me, 'What if everybody doesn't



Fifth-graders at Newark Charter School took turns reciting as many digits of pi as they could. If they made it to 10 digits, they earned themselves a slice of pie.

know their 10 digits?" And I told you everybody would. Sure enough that happened. You should be very proud of yourself," she told them.

Teachers say the tradition began during the school's first year in operation when a fifth-grade math teacher read about Pi Day online.

"It just stuck," said Jessica

Browne, academic dean at the intermediate school.

While memorization is a big part of NCS' Pi Day celebration, teachers also have students complete activities that help them better understand the concept of pi. After Tenebruso's students wrapped up the recitation

portion and ate their snack,

they identified circular items in the classroom and used pi to calculate their diameter.

"They look forward to it. I mean, our kids really do enjoy coming to school, but today especially like they're like, it's Pi Day. That's just awesome to them," Browne said.

The pi-centric lessons go beyond the math classes.

Fifth-graders in English/Language Arts worked on poems utilizing pi or math riddles.

Teacher Becky James led her students through math equation poems based on figures in the literary canon, like Walt Whitman or Robert Frost.

Students also wrote tradi-

tional haikus, before flipping the syllable structure to 3, 1, 4. Other writing activities involved counting the words in lines, the letters in each line and so on.

"Sometimes when you look at your school subjects, you look at them as a complete separate entity," Browne said. "So it's nice for them to see that for this particular day, there's so much intertwining going on, which is really nice for them to see."

She added that when she and her daughter went to buy a pie, the grocery store was nearly sold out.

"It was funny because one of the ladies in the supermarket said, 'Does your daughter go to Newark Charter School?' And I said, 'How do you know?' She goes, 'Because everyone's been here buying pies,'" Browne said, laughing.

Beyond having their pie, and eating it too, Browne hopes students enjoy learning math, no matter their fluency in the subject.

"I think our hope is that not only could they see the importance of the digits of pi, of 3.14, and connecting them to the circumference and the math aspects, but also for them to see that math is fun, math is engaging, and for them to see that you can look at math from lots of different perspectives," she said.

NEWARK POST PHOTO BY BROOKE SCHULTZ

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# Horning hopes to bring a fresh perspective to council

By JOSH SHANNON

jshannon@chespub.com

Running against a four-term incumbent, District 1 candidate James Horning Jr. admits he doesn't have the experience his opponent has.

But, he argues, that isn't necessarily a bad thing.

"I think I bring the benefit of having a fresh set of eyes," Horning said. "I don't have a history with people, good or bad. I'm a blank slate."

While campaigning the past two months, he has avoided committing to positions, opting to listen to residents' concerns instead, he explained.

"I've been more of a

sponge or a piece of clay residents can mold," he said.

Horning is challenging Councilman Mark Morehead in the April 9 election.

Horning is a Delaware native and lived in Windy Hills before moving to his current home in Nottingham Green. He spent time working at W.L. Gore and Associates and now works as an attorney at Wilbraham, Lawler & Buba in Wilmington with a focus on defending companies from asbestos-related lawsuits.

Horning said he decided to run for council because he feels Morehead has not done a good job keeping his constituents informed, noting the incumbent does

not send out a newsletter or update his social media pages.

"I got involved because I want to see more engagement with citizens," he said.

He criticized the current council members for spending too much time "pontificating" and not enough time governing.

"Council meetings have gotten long in length, but less is getting done," he said.

Horning added that he wants to see council members act with more decorum and treat city staff members with more respect.

"People say they are embarrassed by their representation on council," he

said.

If elected, he wants to work with other council members to better prioritize what needs to be done.

"We take on a bunch of different things," he said. "We make little bits of progress, but nothing gets accomplished with speed."

Horning said he wants to improve the relationship between the city and the University of Delaware, adding that he will encourage high-level UD officials to attend council meetings.

"It doesn't seem like they are on the same page," he said.

He noted that a big issue for District 1 is the proposed student housing project at the site of the

shuttered Dickinson dorms and feels it is important to make sure residents stay informed about the plan.

More broadly, he feels that development is inevitable as UD grows its student population while reducing the amount of on-campus housing that is available.

"I don't think residents fully understand the expected housing crisis," he said.

Horning noted he has met with several city officials and is eager to learn more.

"I'm humble enough to accept I don't know everything," he said. "If I don't understand something, I'll ask city staff to fill me in. I'm not going to just wing it."



**James Horning Jr.**

**District:** 1

**Age:** 41

**Address:** 6 Tufts Lane

**Occupation:** Attorney for Wilbraham, Lawler & Buba

**Civic experience:** Youth sports coach

**Family:** Wife, Mandy; three kids ages 13, 10 and 5

**Website:** horningfornewark.com

# Morehead eyes better long-range planning for the city

By JOSH SHANNON

jshannon@chespub.com

Now in his eighth year representing District 1 on city council, Mark Morehead said his strength is working in the background to make structural changes in the government.

"It's not flashy or in your face, but it's how I do it," Morehead said. "Where I've made a huge difference is in the governance and the correct lines of responsibility. I've always worked to return council to its oversight role. I've described former councils as a rubber stamp. We can do better."

Originally from Boston, Morehead moved to Newark in 1995 to work for Arlon, a Bear firm that manufactures printed circuit boards. A few years ago, he left the company to go into business for himself as a contractor.

A resident of Timber Creek, Morehead was first elected to council in 2011 and has been re-elected

three times since then, twice running unopposed. He is now seeking his fifth term and faces newcomer James Horning Jr. in the April 9 election.

Morehead said his experience separates him from his opponent.

"He started this saying he's got no platform," Morehead said, referring to an interview Horning did with the Newark Post after announcing his candidacy in February. "If he's got no ideas, we aren't going to make the progress. I can give you a list of the things I'm doing."

Horning has criticized Morehead for a lack of communication, especially on social media and newsletters, something Morehead says he's working to improve.

"My strong preference is a conversation face-to-face," Morehead said. "I've learned how to do MailChimp, so I can do a newsletter, but my primary contact will be call me, text me."

Through much of his time on council, Morehead often found himself at odds with Mayor Polly Sierer, who is not seeking re-election. He said he is looking forward to council members taking on a bigger role under a new mayor and being able to pursue initiatives they are interested in.

Morehead said he wants to look at strengthening the city's fire codes and having a frank discussion regarding what to do about properties in the city that frequently flood. He also hopes to continue pushing to expand plans to make pedestrian and bicycle improvements to Casho Mill Road in the area of Downes Elementary School.

In addition, Morehead wants council to start doing more long-range planning.

"We do some things really well, and we have some challenges," he said. "We need to plan for the future, so let's have the discussion and do it on based facts,

figures and real data. I'm a policy guy. I believe you set your goals, have the conversation and then you know where you're going."

With nearly two-dozen projects in the pipeline, Morehead believes development will continue to be a key issue for council to deal with. Of particular concern for District 1 is the 189-unit apartment complex proposed for the former Dickinson dorm property on Hillside Road.

He said his criteria for whether to approve a project is simple: will it be a benefit to the surrounding properties, or a detriment?

"I certainly haven't been voting for everything that comes through," he said. "I'm probably the most critical of projects of anyone."

If re-elected, he wants to make some changes to the way the city considers development projects, such as mandating that developers hold an informal community meeting to get feedback from residents before officially submitting their plans

– something that many, but not all, developers have done recently.

He pushed back against the argument, made by Horning and some sitting council members, that the University of Delaware's decision to expand the student population means the city needs to approve a higher housing density.

"I'm not about to approve housing inappropriate for its lot just because someone thinks we need more housing," he said, adding that he's unconvinced there will be a housing shortage. "I don't think the sky is falling."

However, he does want to foster a better relationship with the university.

"We need to better understand their plans so we're not the last ones to find out in the newspaper," he said.

Morehead said he wants to continue to advocate for fiscal responsibility, adding that he supports moderate rate increases to avoid larger ones when times get tough.



**Mark Morehead**

**District:** 1

**Age:** 60

**Address:** 1 Swallow Circle

**Occupation:** Self-employed contractor

**Civic experience:** Councilman since 2011

**Family:** Wife Deb; two adult sons

**Website:** markfornewark.org

"Our rates need to continue to go up a little bit, a little bit – one or two percent a year – to keep our utilities healthy," he said. "If we had been doing that all along, we wouldn't be borrowing money."

# Ciferni, Clifton hold fundraising lead in Newark mayoral race

By JOSH SHANNON

jshannon@chespub.com

With less than a month to go before Newark's municipal election, Catherine Ciferni and Jerry Clifton have jumped out to a significant fundraising advantage in the four-person race to succeed Mayor Polly Sierer, who declined to seek a third term.

Both reported raising more than \$5,000 in the first round of cam-

paign finance reports, which were filed last week. State law requires candidates to file reports detailing their contributions and expenditures 30 days and eight days prior to an election. The election is set for April 9.

Ciferni, a progressive community activist making her first run for public office, reported raising \$5,984 in cash and in-kind contributions.

Her contributions included \$600

from State Rep. John Kowalko's campaign fund, \$300 from New Castle County Councilwoman Lisa Diller, \$100 from Delaware Democratic Party Chairman Erik Raser-Schramm, \$100 from former state auditor candidate Kathleen Davies, \$100 from State Rep. Kim Williams and \$75 from Christina School Board member John Young. Kowalko and Diller also donated stamps and stationary.

After buying signs and other

campaign materials, Ciferni had \$4,700 left in her campaign fund.

Clifton, a 10-term city councilman, raised \$5,831 and had an additional \$568 left over from previous elections.

His contributions included \$500 from former councilwoman Marge Hadden's campaign fund, \$100 from his employer Delaware Express and \$100 from K & S Garage, an auto repair shop on South Chapel Street. New Castle

County Clerk of the Peace Ken Boulden, who is running Clifton's campaign, donated approximately \$375 worth of campaign supplies, and Councilwoman Jen Wallace donated \$90 worth of web services.

After buying signs and newspaper advertising, Clifton has \$2,353 cash on hand.



# Hughes wants thoughtful development, consideration of seniors

By BROOKE SCHULTZ  
bschultz@chespub.com

A dedicated crusader for seniors, someone who believes in new businesses and an advocate for her neighbors – those are a few of the ways Sharon Hughes describes herself.

"I don't shy away from big problems," she said. "I jump in, I roll up my sleeves, I help them."

She is running against Maria Ruckle in the April 9 election to replace Jerry Clifton, who opted to run for mayor rather than seek an 11th term as District 2's representative on council.

Hughes, 65, lives in the Stafford neighborhood with her sister, whom she cares for, a roommate and several pets. A Delaware-native, Hughes has two children and five grandchildren.

She is no stranger to city elections, as she first ran for the District 2 seat in 2005, and again in 2014, both unsuccessfully. She submitted paperwork to run again in

2017, but later withdrew from the race.

She retired last year from a mortgage company.

"It was intense," she said of her work. "Every day there were fires to put out, no matter how well you prepared."

That, she said, brings her to why she wants to serve on council.

"Over the years, my skill set is a perfect blend for what they need in there," she said.

Hughes explained that District 2 is composed mostly of seniors, and the issues that face her district resonate with her personally.

She noted that water rates, sewer rates and taxes are beginning to get a bit high, and she'd like to see the city begin thinking out of the box for solutions.

"I didn't like the idea of them raising the water rates, but I know that, compared to other areas, they were pretty low and they're more in line with the average now," she said. "There

are a lot of people on fixed incomes here. I'm one of them. That's why I'm saying I'd like to get together with other great minds within the council and the city's administration and see: Is there is there another way we can do this?"

As she has been campaigning, she said that residents seem educated about the issues, and she wants to continue to bridge the gap so she can share residents' ideas and input with the city.

She'd like to tap into the homeowners and civic associations to gauge what their concerns are, what their neighborhoods are facing and struggling with, as well as bring information from city officials back to them, she said.

For instance, one of the concerns she has heard from neighbors so far is about building and new construction.

Hughes said that she is not against progress and development, but she wants to see it done carefully and

creatively.

When looking at the changes to the university, and developers creating more apartments to accommodate the growing student population, Hughes said the university has to be more aware of what is doing.

"Parents send their kids to the university because it's got high marks and a great reputation, and then they see the quaintness of the city of Newark and it appeals to them," she said. "It's everybody's perfect idea of where they would want their son or daughter to be. But the more [the university] take[s], the less we have to offer. I don't want all hotels, motels and rentals."

While she understands the developers have to build a project that is financially feasible, she said she disagrees that the city should let buildings go up to four or five stories.

"It's just setting a precedent. It's opening a door that we may not be able to close again," she said. "I'm

not anti-business. I would just like it done with a little more creativity."

She'd also like to see more retail on Main Street and throughout Newark.

"I just wish that we could really think about what we're doing, and try and maintain the quaintness of the city and the shops and have more people and various kinds of businesses attracted to this area," she said.

And with that retail, she would like to see more – or better – parking. She mentioned a parking garage, stricter use of parking waivers and perhaps some kind of ride-share agreement as possible ideas.

In District 2, much of it comes down to quality of life, she noted, and she wants to help tackle that.

"I genuinely feel for the residents," she said. "I love the city of Newark. I have the best neighbors in the world in my development."

She's hoping her fourth time running for council is



**Sharon Hughes**

**District:** 2

**Age:** 65

**Address:** 5 Magnolia Circle

**Occupation:** Retired mortgage originator and loan officer

**Civic experience:** Previously ran for council

**Family:** Two children, five grandchildren

successful.

"Sometimes you have to run a few times before they're ready for you," she continued. "I never lost my enthusiasm. I truly believe [voters] were just saying, 'Not yet.'"

# Ruckle strives to unify council, community, university

By BROOKE SCHULTZ  
bschultz@chespub.com

Maria Ruckle decided to throw her hat in the ring for city council when her daughter, Megan Carpenter, 19, told her, "You need to do it."

"She didn't say, 'You should do it,'" Ruckle said. "She said, 'You need to.' And so that was kind of the deciding factor for me."

Ruckle is running against Sharon Hughes in the April 9 election to replace Jerry Clifton, who opted to run for mayor rather than seek an 11th term as District 2's representative on council.

A lifelong Delawarean, Ruckle, 49, lives in the Stafford neighborhood. She runs a real estate business with her husband, former councilman Todd Ruckle. The family is also well known in the broader community after receiving an outpouring of support when daughter Emily was attacked by a pit bull in 2014.

During her day-to-day work the with real estate business, Ruckle said she

functions as a negotiator.

"We bring together two completely opposite interests, and I think Newark has a lot of that going on right now," she said. "I'm seeing a lot of us-versus-them mentality, whether it's University [of Delaware] versus the city, or different factions of council, or the developers-versus-the-residents. And I'd like to be the one that helps to bring those things together."

Ruckle has never held public office, but her husband was elected to the District 2 seat in 2014, which helped prepare her, she said.

"Although I have the same last name, I'm not my husband, and I think that's something that voters need to know. I'm a very different person," she said.

Ruckle seeks a careful balance for the quality of life.

"Newark's having growing pains, but I think we're also having those issues of the ever-increasing tax burden and not just from the city, but from the county and the school district," she said.

Keeping an eye on those things could include bringing all the parties together and looking at the big picture, she said.

"We have a liaison between the city and Legislative Hall; we have a liaison between the city and UD. There's no liaison related between the city and the county, and there's so much going on at the county level that's really affecting us," she said.

She added that she would like to see better communication between the residents and their representative, too.

"I've gotten a lot of ideas actually from other council people, and this is one way where I would differ from both Todd and Jerry," she said. "I think I'd be much more available than either of them were as council people."

She plans to send out a regular newsletter and also hold monthly coffee sessions with residents.

In her district, she sees an immediate need to fix the area of Woodlawn Avenue where Stafford

resident Ken Fontal was struck by a vehicle and killed while running last month.

"There's a huge drainage issue that runs right where the accident happened, and then the night that he was running was somewhat icy. And I've seen him running a gazillion times. I drive that path probably five, six times a day," she said. "And I know he probably veered out to avoid where that water comes down where it was icy, and I think the Parks and Recreation needs to get on that and do something about that."

Ruckle believes there has been a breakdown in communication between the city and UD. While she understands the need to close the Christiana Towers, UD is also closing other dorms around the same time.

"I think they're doing too much at the wrong time," she said. "I don't know what's going on behind the scenes at UD. I'm not privy to that information. But there needs to be a task

force of such to come together, to look at how can UD get housing options?"

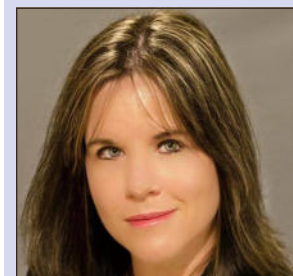
She noted that it is a catch-22, however.

"At least when private developers are building, that's taxable for us, it's revenue, but at the same time, they're encroaching on the neighborhoods," she said. "So I think it really needs to be a roundtable of a little bit of everybody. I think we need to have representatives from the community involved, and representatives from the city, representatives ... from the university."

Aside from the university, she also would like to see the Christina School District continue to evolve.

"I think the Christina School District can become what it once was. It just needs the right people in place; it needs the right structure in place," she said. "In Newark, we've got some of the most brilliant minds in this university town that can come together and make the school district work."

Looking toward the elec-



**Maria Ruckle**

**District:** 2

**Age:** 49

**Address:** 16 Adelene Avenue

**Occupation:** Real estate agent

**Family:** Todd Ruckle, husband; four children

tion, Ruckle said that no matter who wins, she's excited there will be another woman on council.

"And I think we have a very strong group of people there and strong candidates that are out there, and everyone brings their own strengths and great ideas to it," she said. "I'd like to foster a sense of camaraderie and cohesiveness and working together instead of this faction feel that it's had for a while."

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## PARTY

From  
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voicemail box was full by the time the meeting was over. "Some of them began with some interesting language."

That was just a foreshadowing of the backlash to come as students used social media to organize opposition to the law, which was developed in response to Old Newark residents' complaints about the large gatherings in their neighborhood they've come to refer to as "super parties."

The ordinance created a new offense called unruly gathering, which will be triggered when police observe three or more nuisance behaviors at a residence where four or more people have gathered. Those offenses include minors consuming alcohol, noise, disorderly premises, people on the roof, more than 150 people present without a permit, obstruction of public rights-of-way, public drunkenness, fights, criminal mischief, public urination, littering, drug use, trespassing on neighboring property and any other conduct that "threatens the health, safety, good and quiet order of the city."

The penalty for a first offense will be a \$500 fine and 20 hours of community service, a second offense will be \$1,000 and 32 hours, a third offense will be \$1,500 and 48 hours, and a fourth offense will be \$2,000 and 60 hours.

Shortly after council unanimously passed the ordinance March 11, UD student Charlie Hess created an online petition claiming the law will "ruin our school" and per-

suade potential students to go elsewhere.

"To the students, stand with me and fight this battle," Hess wrote. "We came to this school for many reasons and the passing of this Bill is taking away from our college experience. If we want change, and we want to proceed through the rest of our college years with fun filled days, then we must stand up to our City Council and show them just how detrimental this Bill is to this School."

The petition spread like wildfire online, and it is up to nearly 14,000 signatures, though it's unclear if all the signees actually attend UD or live in Newark.

Many of the signees who left comments repeated the false claim – fueled by misleading social media posts and sensationalized headlines – that the law empowers police to issue a citation for any gathering of four or more people.

"So does this mean ud students get to call Newark pd when Newark families are having a bbq of more than 4 people???" Kelsey Ladics wrote.

"I'm so thankful for this bill. Now myself and my fellow peers can enjoy all there is too do around here! Watch the trains come by on the hour and enjoy all of nothing Delaware has to offer!!" Trevor Rowe wrote sarcastically.

"I'm a UD alum and the town of Newark has a long, tired history of victimizing students to appease a handful of [expletive] residents who choose to live in the middle of a college town. The council should be ashamed of themselves for trying to institute such a profoundly

stupid and fascistic law and I'm glad they're now being mocked on a national scale," Jordan Kellermeyer wrote.

Kaitlyn Brennan wrote the law "will completely change our college experience and not in a positive way."

Some parents signed, as well.

"I agree that the students are being unfairly targeted & agree wholeheartedly with the Universities stand point. I have a son attending & now this is a huge concern. I think Newark is planning on capitalizing on this which is disgusting," Lisa Nicholson wrote.

**'No one is really reading what this law says'**

Despite the initial outrage, some students are softening their criticism of the law after understanding it better, officials said.

Newark Police Department Sgt. Greg D'Elia, who helped develop the law, spent much of last week meeting with student groups to address concerns. The meetings were productive, he said.

"No one is really reading what this law says. They're just reading the first part," D'Elia said.

That first part specifies that the law applies to gatherings of four or more people, but more importantly, the law goes on to state that police must observe three nuisance behaviors before citing the organizers.

Allan Carlsen, president of the Interfraternity Council at UD, was one of the students who spoke out against the law at last week's council meeting. However, after meeting with D'Elia, he sent

a letter to fellow students attempting to quell misinformation.

"Size of a gathering is not necessarily an indicator of unruliness. For example: 6 individuals yelling outside at 2AM, setting off fireworks, excessively littering, and underage drinking are more unruly and thus a greater detriment to communal quality of life than a gathering of 80 individuals drinking of age and preventing noise from passing property boundaries," Carlsen wrote.

He reported that D'Elia assured him the law would be used sparingly.

"When asked, the representative from the NPD stated that he personally could only think of approximately 5 situations he interacted in last semester (Fall '18) that would have risen to the level of an unruly social gathering," Carlsen wrote. "Compare that with the approximately 250 noise violations and 50 disorderly premises issued last semester."

Carlsen encouraged students to self-police themselves to keep parties from getting out of hand.

"It is essential that over the course of the next couple of weeks and through this change, we continue to show the city, the NPD, and the university the true value we bring to this community," he wrote.

José-Luis Riera, UD's vice president for student life, said he has had a number of conversations with students about the new law.

"The initial fear was that in any situation with the consumption of alcohol, boom, it will be shut down," Riera said. "I think you'll see students relax more and under-



PHOTO COURTESY OF DAN BEAVER

A large party spills out onto Wollaston Avenue last fall. Wollaston Avenue resident Dan Beaver spent the fall documenting the "super parties" he and his neighbors say are lowering the quality of life in Old Newark.

stand the broader reasons behind it."

**Students say city should have sought their feedback**

Last Friday, the Student Government Association issued a prepared statement saying it understands the city's intentions but continues to have concerns about the law's impact on students.

"While the City has no obligation to act in accordance with the desires of students, we firmly believe that students are important stakeholders within the community that can add value to conversations in which we are included, which is why we're extremely disappointed by the process by which this ordinance was implemented," the group wrote.

SGA criticized the city for meeting with residents and landlords to discuss the law, but not students. The group's statement pointed out that the city intended to enact penalties for landlords as well but put them on hold due to concerns from the Newark Landlord Association.

The proposed law was hardly a secret – the super

party issue was first discussed at a council meeting in December, D'Elia detailed his proposal at a meeting in February, and this newspaper published multiple articles about it. However, officials acknowledged they did not specifically reach out to student groups to seek feedback prior to the vote.

Meghan Mullennix, SGA's liaison to city council, attempted to voice her concerns about the law during the Feb. 25 council meeting, but Mayor Polly Sierer declined to let her speak on the issue, telling her to save her comments for the day of the vote.

SGA said it plans to hold a townhall meeting between council members and students.

Councilman Hamilton, who noted he had productive conversations with some of the students who called him, said the city could have done more to engage students.

"It's a good lesson for us to reach out and maybe we can form better communication lines with the student organizations," he said, adding that students need to stay engaged as well. "If you live in a community, it's best to keep your head up and be involved."

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# Newark's Edris Graves continues gymnastics success

By JON BUZBY

JonBuzby@hotmail.com

Edris Graves has been involved in the sport of gymnastics since he was 7 years old.

At first, he just liked the thought of jumping and tumbling around on the different pieces of apparatus and thus didn't take the sport very seriously. Like many of his friends, Graves also experimented with basketball, soccer, flag football and swimming.

Eventually, it was the sport of gymnastics that he enjoyed the most, and he quickly learned that in order to keep reaching higher levels, he'd be required to undertake an intense training regimen. This meant he would have to stop playing other sports.

"Gymnastics came natural to me," said Graves, a freshman at Newark Charter School who competes for KMC gymnastics in Kennett Square, Pa. "It was fun flipping around and I was good at it. Once I got on the competitive team at age 7, I had no interest in any other sport. I do not regret the decision to specialize in gymnastics at all."

Despite what some people think whenever a child athlete specializes so intensely in a sport, Graves' decision to do so was his and his alone.

"Gymnastics has always been a choice for me," Graves said. "My parents never forced it on me. If I want to hang out with friends, go bowling, to the movies, family functions and miss practice, it's my choice. I haven't missed out on much at all."

Graves trains 19 hours each week: Monday through Thursday 5 to 8 p.m. and Saturday morning for three hours. He also has a private gymnastics session on Wednesdays with his coach.

"I wake up at 6:30, start school at 7:30 and I'm home by 2:45 p.m.," he explained. "I leave for gymnastics practice at 4:15 and I'm back home from practice at 9:45. I eat, shower, study and am in bed by 11:30ish."

He has good reason to make sure he studies.

"School comes first in my house — no Honor Roll, no gymnastics," he said.

His only break from training comes when the family is on vacation. But even then, he still stays in shape.

"I don't do gymnastics per se while on vacation, but I stretch, do push-ups, pull-ups and sit-ups," he said. "There was one week I did nothing and I paid for it when I got back to the gym. I couldn't even do a split and I've been doing them since I was 4. I'm not as flexible as I used to be now that I've grown."

Graves' hard work has paid off. The major meets in which he has competed include the West Point Invitational, Brian Babcock Invitational (BBI) and the Philadelphia Boys Invitational. At the most recent BBI, Graves placed second in the all-around following a first-place finish on the rings, second on pommel horse and third in the high bar.

In gymnastics circles, the BBI has developed into one of the largest and most prestigious men's invitationals in the country, highlighting gymnasts from across the country and abroad. But like any top athlete, Graves treats every meet the same.

"My goal is to always do my best, large or small meets," Graves said. "In the large meets, I have less room for error. The competition level is so high in the large meets."

Graves recently returned from the Pennsylvania State Championship, held March 9 and 10 in Gettysburg, Pa. He medaled in five events, highlighted by second-place finishes in the pommel horse, vault and high bar events. He also placed third on parallel bars and fourth on the floor exercise. Graves' point totals earned him second place in the All-Around competition, qualifying him for April's Regional Championship, held in Landover, Md.

"I'll continue to practice hard, execute my skills and stick my landings," he said of his preparation for the regionals, where he has yet to medal in four other tries. "But first and foremost, I pray."

Regardless of how he does at regionals, that event will be the end of the road for Graves this season. Graves, 14, competes at Level 9 in the 15-16 age division, a category that is not offered at Nationals. Therefore, whether he gets on the podium at regionals or not, the very next week, he will return to Delaware and continue training toward his goals.

In 2015, Graves' goal was to be in the Olympics. When asked the same question four years later, his reply was slightly different.

"It would be great to make the Olympics, but it's not my goal," he said. "I want to be a pediatrician."

To reach that goal, Graves will need to focus, work hard, and be committed. Something he has already proven he can do.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Newark Charter freshman Edris Graves is preparing for his fifth trip to the gymnastics regionals.

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Shahid Bajwa speaks during a prayer vigil at Masjid Isa Ibn-e-Maryam on Sunday evening.

NEWARK POST PHOTOS BY JOSH SHANNON



Attorney General Kathy Jennings speaks during a prayer vigil at Masjid Isa Ibn-e-Maryam on Sunday evening.



Masjid Isa Ibn-e-Maryam hosts a prayer vigil Sunday evening for the victims of the New Zealand mass shooting.

# 'We are here for you,' officials tell local Muslim community

## Newark mosque holds vigil in wake of New Zealand attack

By JOSH SHANNON  
jshannon@chespub.com

With tears in her eyes, Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester stood before those gathered for an interfaith prayer service and held up a photo of Mucaad Ibrahim.

The 3-year-old boy was the youngest of the 50 people gunned down by a white supremacist in two New Zealand mosques on Friday.

Rochester implored those in attendance Sunday evening at Masjid Isa Ibn-e-Maryam, a mosque on Old Baltimore Pike near Newark, to remember Mucaad and the other victims who lost their lives to hate.

"We have to do our part. We have to spread the light and the love so his death and everyone else's is not in vain," she said.

Sunday's event drew a

wide range of representatives from government, law enforcement, the faith community and everyday citizens who sought to assure the local Muslim community they are not alone.

"Tonight when you, our neighbors, are hurting, we feel your pain, we feel your fear, and we feel your sorrow," Gov. John Carney said. "And we are here for you."

Rabbi Douglas Krantz concurred.

"We're here because an attack on any of our communities is an attack on all of us," Krantz said. "Those who were massacred in New Zealand were God's good children. We mourn for them and we mourn with their families."

The Rev. Gregory Knox Jones, pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church in

Wilmington, decried what he called the growing threat of white supremacy.

"It seems that more and more individuals are joining this orgy of evil as hate tramples compassion, disdain eviscerates respect, hostility overshadows decency, and lies drown out truth," Jones said. "We need to pray but we do not need to pray for God, Allah or Yahweh to fix the problems. We need to pray for the courage to answer our creator's call to cast out the demons that are ravaging our world."

Attorney General Kathy Jennings echoed that sentiment.

"Hate does not grow in a vacuum. It is fed or starved by all of us," Jennings said. "History will judge us for our success or failure in learning from the past. And so it becomes the duty of

good people to recognize that hate's home is as much in the evil as it is in the complicit."

Sen. Chris Coons expressed optimism for the future.

"We will win this fight," Coons said. "We will turn the arc of our history toward justice and we will shape our nation in a direction that moves toward peace and toward justice."

Abdullah Muhammad, a leader at the mosque, said it is meaningful that so many people came to show their support, but more is needed.

"This is not the time for words. This is the time for action," Muhammad said. "And it's just regrettable that there are some people in high places that have the power and influence to really make a difference in this country, and they're not."



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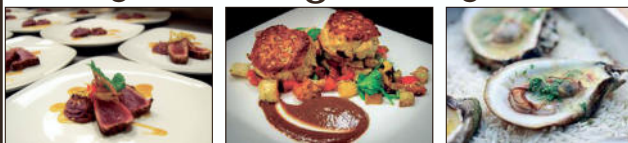
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# Council candidates discuss university, development

By BROOKE SCHULTZ  
bschultz@chespub.com

The candidates for city council made their cases for a seat at the dais during a candidate forum Tuesday night.

District 1 candidates attorney James Horning Jr. and four-term incumbent Mark Morehead and District 2 candidates Sharon Hughes and Maria Ruckle answered questions about their platforms before a packed room at the Newark Senior Center.

## District 1

As in the mayoral debate, the topic of the University of Delaware came up throughout the evening, with Horning and Morehead agreeing that the university has a large impact on Newark.

"We have a new administration where they're much more willing to engage. This is extremely important to us; UD wants to grow, they affect our finances tremendously, they affect our quality of life. And while they bring much culture and obviously much education, we need to understand where they are going. So this is huge issue. And I think it's fundamental to Newark," Morehead said.

Morehead said he would like to see the university purchase some houses near campus for visiting professors to rent, which would "create a buffer" between students and full-time residents.

Horning said that, as he



NEWARK POST PHOTO BY JOSH SHANNON

Council candidates James Horning Jr., Mark Morehead, Sharon Hughes and Maria Ruckle participate in a candidate forum on Tuesday.

has been knocking on doors, those he has talked to don't see a partnership between the university and the city.

"I want to change not only that perception but build that relationship as well, in terms of getting in there and making a difference. I think the unruly gathering ordinance was a case study in how the strong civic association led by Dr. [Amy] Roe could make a huge impact quickly and get the ordinance passed much quicker than council has acted on some other priorities that the residents have," he said.

When asked about crime and theft in the city, Morehead said many of the crimes in Newark are assault, which stem from drinking.

"When the police talk about crime, they try to reduce the

excessive use of alcohol in order to prevent the assaults from happening because of that. We also have some crime that happens because of drug-related issues," he noted.

Horning said he agreed with Morehead about the root causes of crime, and said he would partner with the Newark Police Department and the university police for community policing.

"Then also [give] them the freedom to explore options similar to the unruly gathering ordinance, where they looked at examples of where it worked in other cities and universities such as Towson University," he continued.

Both said improving communication is a key issue facing Newark.

Horning said that if elected, he would use social media

and his website to provide information to constituents.

"I want to meet you where you are, because I know you're busy and we can't always connect. You need to get the information when you can get it. And for a lot of people, that is social media and electronic means," he said, adding that he wants to start a hotline so residents can call and get access to the same information if they're not comfortable with other technology.

Morehead said he prefers in-person communication.

"People that know me know that you stop me in the grocery store and I'll talk to you for as long as you want, as much conversation until you find out what it is, wherever that conversation is. I'll give you all the information."

He noted that it's not a particularly effective way to reach a large group of people, but it is a good way to having meaningful and educated conversations.

When the forum moderator read off a question concerning affordable housing, laughter rippled through the audience.

"That seems to be a pretty spirited topic, it sounds like," Horning said. "As a candidate right now, I don't have all the answers to that....So I'll go out and I'll get information and meet with anyone who wants to talk about that to find solutions and make progress on that."

Morehead said that affordable housing hasn't been created because city officials haven't set their mind on it yet.

"It's conversation that I support," he said. "We haven't had a lot of conversations that we do need to have. And I have extremely high hopes this next council will be much more progressive, much more interactive and more willing to discuss and engage the community to gather your ideas as well."

In closing, Horning told at-

tendees he is a recreational pilot.

"I think that's important to know, because pilots have a certain temperament and a certain coolness under pressure, but it's also a highly technical skill and requires a lot of planning. It requires good judgment and a keen awareness, a certain humility of your shortcomings or where you may need to get more input," he said.

Morehead said he has been integral to improvements in the city, including transparency and accountability.

"I offer that I have the education, the background, the skills and the experience to serve in this manner. I enjoy thinking about how to build a better future," he said. "I enjoy talking to residents and gathering their ideas. I enjoy reading and learning about the best practices developed by other communities. And I have the time to serve in this way, but most of all, I have the passion."

## District 2

In District 2, Hughes and Ruckle are running to replace Jerry Clifton, who opted to run for mayor rather than seek an 11th term on council.

Both noted that UD and the city are intertwined but in need of a stronger alliance.

Hughes said that, to benefit the city the most, having a good relationship with the university is important, and it plays into other city issues.

"Anyone that wants to frequent the businesses and support the businesses and restaurants and shops on Main Street will tell you that the traffic is an issue. So is parking. Working with UD, I think, that will give us more options, more ideas on the table and possibly some solutions that will work for all of us and keep our city thriving. That's what we need," she said.

Ruckle said the city and university are having growing pains.

"I would like to see Town and Gown in some form come back or something in its place where there could be more of a conversation between the university," she said. "There needs to be more discussion and, yes, students need to be a part of it."

Hughes also noted that, when it comes to affordable housing, the university could help.

"I'd like to see them bring more to the table," she said. "And also with the developers that we have been so patient with, and worked with, with waivers and changing things on our end to help them, that

they offer some type of a fee to contribute to a fund to get this started."

Ruckle noted that student housing is more profitable, which is the reason why family and senior housing is lacking in Newark.

"What we need to do is forge relationships with non-profits and government agencies to get that funding. One that comes to mind is the Delaware Housing Opportunity Fund," she said. "Investors aren't going to do this all on their own. The money's not in it for them. And unfortunately, it does come down to dollars and cents."

Hughes said she wants to work more with local civic associations.

"There's a lot of contact that can be made. You can streamline a lot through the civic association. It's very important because everybody is pressed for time and you want to reach the best way possible, especially when there's something that is coming up, you want to keep them informed," she said.

Ruckle said that, as a real estate, she has strong communication skills.

"If we don't communicate, we lose business. Phone, email, text, social media, come to my house, website. I'd like to call us to do monthly coffees," she said. "I'm going to be open to my constituents – and what works? You guys tell me, tell me what works and what you'd like to see. I'm wide open to it."

Hughes noted that, as a retiree, she has time to devote to being a councilwoman.

"I bring a lot of financial background and housing experience with me. This is an important transitional election for the city of Newark, and we will be electing a new mayor and filling two seats on council. Support candidates that will place your interests above their own, and make no mistake about it, doing [this] work demands a major commitment of time and energy. Support candidates who are able to make that commitment," she said.

Ruckle responded that while she does have a full-time job, she can lean on her team at work for help.

"I know how to delegate, that's what I do," she said. "So I do have the time to devote to this and as I said before, being married to a former council member, I know full well what is expected. I've witnessed the late nights and I've witnessed the daytime and I've witnessed the weekends that go into it. I don't have blinders on when it comes to the hours."

# Elect

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## RACE

From  
Page 6

Kasai Guthrie, a University of Delaware undergraduate student and political newcomer, raised \$1,403, most of it from Eddie and Jossie Traynham, a New Castle couple who each

donated the maximum of \$600.

He has \$225 left after buying signs and other campaign materials.

Brandon Farzad, an aerospace engineer making his first run for office, raised \$407, mostly from out-of-state relatives, and also loaned his campaign \$1,000.

Only \$114 remains in his

campaign fund.

In the District 1 council race, challenger James Horning Jr. has raised more than twice what incumbent Mark Morehead has raised.

Horning, an attorney and political newcomer, raised \$2,653, including \$600 from Sierer's campaign fund; \$600 from Sierer's husband, Paul; \$200 from former

Newark communications manager Kelly Bachman and another \$200 from Bachman's husband, Nathan. Horning also loaned his campaign \$90.

After spending just \$266, he has \$2,477 remaining.

Morehead, who is seeking his fifth term on council, said he is not actively fundraising but did receive

contributions totaling \$895. All of the contributions were under \$100, which by law do not have to be itemized.

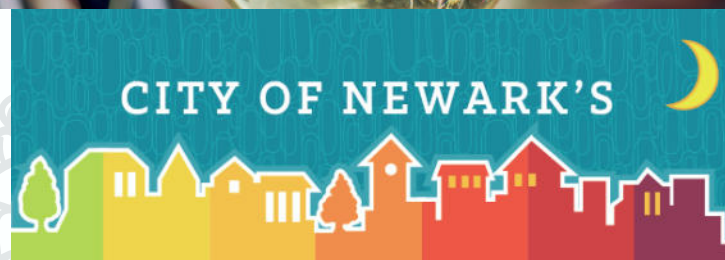
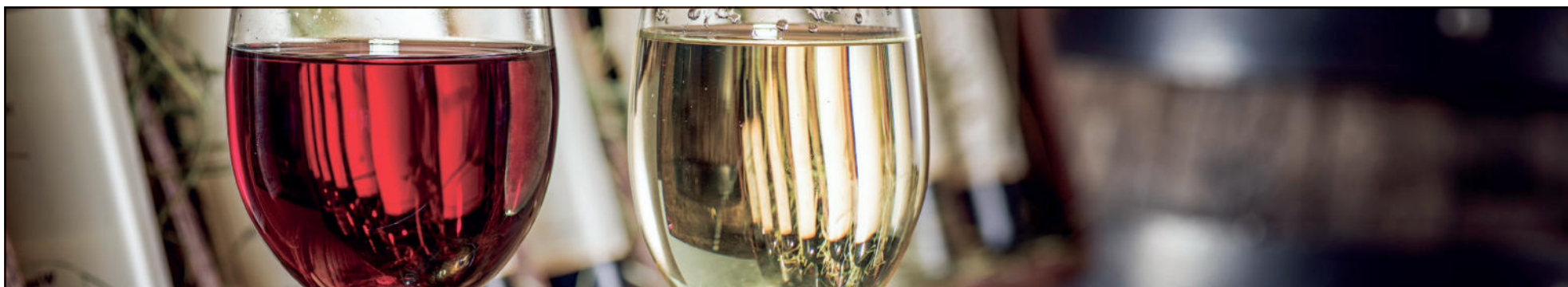
Morehead, who loaned the campaign \$2,000 and had \$100 remaining from a previous campaign, has \$1,497 cash on-hand.

In District 2, Sharon Hughes and Maria Ruckle

are vying to succeed Clifton, who opted to run for mayor rather than seek reelection to council.

Hughes raised \$642, including a \$200 donation from Clifton's wife, Linda. She has spent nearly all of that on signs and other campaign materials.

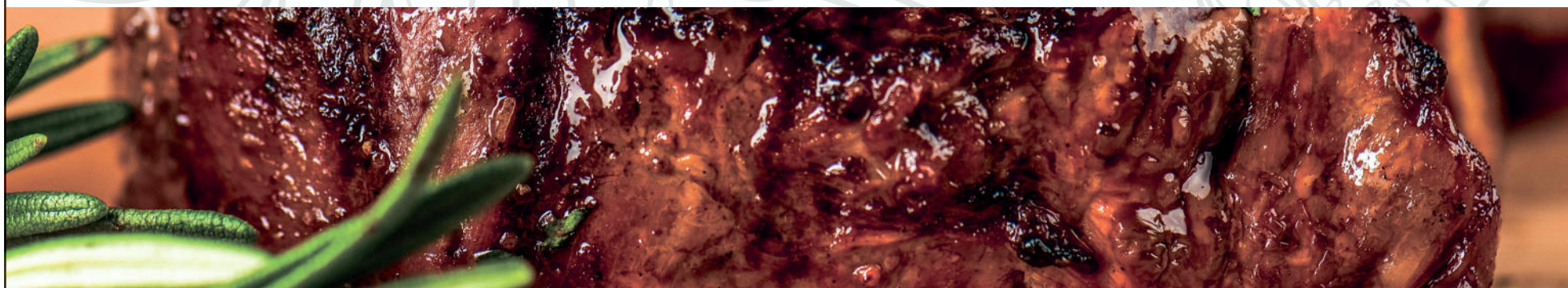
Ruckle has yet to file a campaign finance report.



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## MAYOR

From  
Page 1

and look at how other places have done things in order to solve problems like smart growth, better transportation models and improving relationships with UD and the community," she said.

Guthrie, a UD sophomore, said he is the only one of the candidates to put forth a comprehensive plan of what voters can expect from him if he is elected.

"My goal as mayor is to ensure the quality life for all – rectifying the student house party dilemma immediately, so we can work on resolving more important issues that are affecting our residents in greater capacity than house parties," he said.

Farzad cited his ties to each of the communities in Newark – the student population and the homeowners.

"Which of these candidates has the skills necessary to understand and collaborate with the citizens of Newark, the students and members of council and the very talented city staff?" he said. "I think you'll find the answer is simple. It's not rocket science."

University of  
Delaware relations

Many of the questions Tuesday night revolved around UD.

Guthrie said he wants to improve the relationship between students and residents.

"Right now there's this narrative going around that the students don't really care about the quality of life presented to the residents, which is completely false," he said. "I think Newark is big enough for students to go to school, for families to raise children and also for retired senior citizens to enjoy their life comfortably and peacefully."

Ciferni, who works at UD's English Language Institute, said that working with the university doesn't need to start with the top administration.

"There's a focus on the top-down model. I think we have to focus on the students and professors and residents that live in Newark before we focus on administration," she said. "I think once we improve that relationship and we can communicate, the other issues will fall into place."

Clifton said he believes there is a good relationship in place with the university and open lines of communication.

"I've always had open lines of communication. I've always been able to sit down and talk with the administration of the university. I don't wear that on my sleeve, necessarily," he said. "I believe that the relationship is going to continue to grow because I'm getting those signals that suggest that they want to communicate in parallel positions."



NEWARK POST PHOTO BY JOSH SHANNON

Mayoral candidate Kasai Guthrie speaks during a candidate forum on Tuesday.

## Development

Development, Clifton said, looms large, particularly when it comes to student housing and the university's decision to expand its student population while also closing dorms.

"The elephant in the room is we are at a deficit for students," he said. "They can either go in the community – we approve good, safe places for them to be – or they stay outside the city and drive in. And that's a horrible choice."

He also noted that the comprehensive plan is updated every five years.

"It's also a fluid plan, and it's fluid because you don't know what's coming down the road. The paradigms

are constantly shifting, and whether you are in agreement – say with the hotel on Main Street – or not in agreement with it, we could not have predicted anything like that five years ago," he said. "So you don't want to discourage that type of development if it's what the people want."

Farzad said there is not inherently anything wrong with "spot-zoning," which is changing the zoning of a particular property differently than surrounding areas.

"We have to be intelligent about it. We can't be building structures that are really going to ruin the look and feel of the city and overall message of the city, but sometimes it's the right choice," he said.

He also noted that there is a "wave of student housing crisis at our doorstep."

"If you don't prepare for it properly, it's going to be a big problem," he said. "So the way we prepare for that is to really assess these large construction projects to account for more student housing that these private developers are considering bringing to council. I think that's something we need to

really start getting ahead of."

Ciferni noted that while it seems fine to spot-zone in theory, the comprehensive plan becomes irrelevant.

"I feel it impacts the character of the world around it. Because when something comes to council – 'Well, X, Y and Z have been built,' so now even though it's not with the comprehensive plan, we've changed the character of the area and now it fits. So it makes the comp plan a little null and void," she said.

Ciferni said that she'd like to see partnerships with the developers and the state.

"I would like to see workforce development housing and affordable family housing, a public and private partnership with the state and developers, where developers get what they want but we could make units affordable and available," she said, noting that millennials are graduating with debt and can't buy traditional homes right away.

## City revenue

Ciferni said she would like to see UD increase its subvention payments to the city.

"I would like there to be a cost effective outside

study done on that to see if that subvention could be increased," she said.

Clifton said diversifying the city's revenue stream is important.

"We do need to continue our quest to diversify, such as the hotel tax, that look for other streams," he said. "One of the conversations with the university to wean us off of our dependence is them renting space on their rooftops for solar panels, and that very well may become a reality in the next few years."

Guthrie said fostering economic development is key.

"I met with Tracy Shickel, the economic director to STAR Campus, to see if we can start holding the companies that are incoming to the STAR Campus more accountable into creating community programs that have a larger impact on our communities, meaning after-school studying and tutor for our kids and students," he said.

Farzad said the city needs to "intelligently allow for special-use permits for large rental units," because development projects add to the tax base, he said.

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# PUBLIC NOTICES

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## LEGAL NOTICE

RE: DEADLY WEAPON

I, Jonathan Gagliardino, residing at 6 N. Townview Lane Newark, DE 19711, will make application to the judges of the Superior Court of the State of Delaware in and for New Castle County at Wilmington for the next term for a license to carry a concealed deadly weapon, or weapons for the protection of my person(s), or property, or both.

Jonathan Gagliardino  
3/19/19

np 3/22

2839632

## LEGAL NOTICE

RE: DEADLY WEAPON

I, Otis Jason Williams, residing at 25 Browns Lane Newark, DE 19702, will make application to the judges of the Superior Court of the State of Delaware in and for New Castle County at Wilmington for the next term for a license to carry a concealed deadly weapon, or weapons for the protection of my person(s), or property, or both.

Otis Jason Williams  
3/12/19

np 3/22

2838723

## LEGAL NOTICE

RE: DEADLY WEAPON

I, Terri D. Hall, residing at 419 Shai Circle, Bear, DE 19701, will make application to the judges of the Superior Court of the State of Delaware in and for New Castle County at Wilmington for the next term for a license to carry a concealed deadly weapon, or weapons for the protection of my person(s), or property, or both.

Terri D. Hall  
3/14/19

np 3/22

2839236

## LEGAL NOTICE

RE: DEADLY WEAPON

I, Mark A. Williamson, residing at 219 Oakfield Dr., Newark, DE 19713, will make application to the judges of the Superior Court of the State of Delaware in and for New Castle County at Wilmington for the next term for a license to carry a concealed deadly weapon, or weapons for the protection of my person(s), or property, or both.

Mark A. Williamson  
3/19/19

np 3/22

2839630

THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS FOR THE STATE OF DELAWARE IN AND FOR NEW CASTLE COUNTY  
IN RE: CHANGE OF NAME OF  
SYDNEY OLIVIA CANNON DUCKETT

Petitioner(s)

TO

SYDNEY OLIVIA GUY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that TARYN GUY intends to present a Petition to the Court of Common Pleas for the State of Delaware in and for New Castle County, to change her minor child's name to SYDNEY OLIVIA GUY.

TARYN GUY

Petitioner

Dated: 3/6/2019

2838016

np 3/15,22,29

THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS FOR THE STATE OF DELAWARE IN AND FOR NEW CASTLE COUNTY  
IN RE: CHANGE OF NAME OF

MATTHEW JOSEPH GREVE

Petitioner(s)

TO

EMILY FERREA GREVE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that MATTHEW JOSEPH GREVE intends to present a Petition to the Court of Common Pleas for the State of Delaware in and for New Castle County, to change his/her name to EMILY FERREA GREVE.

MATTHEW JOSEPH GREVE

Petitioner

Dated: 3/5/2019

2837921

np 3/15,22,29

## CITY OF NEWARK DELAWARE COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

March 25, 2019 – 7:00 P.M. – CC

There may be a vote on each and every agenda item set forth herein.

### SILENT MEDITATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

\*1. **PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS (15 minute limit):** None

### 2. ITEMS NOT ON PUBLISHED AGENDA:

- A. Elected Officials who represent City of Newark residents or utility customers
- B. University
  - (1) Administration (5 minutes per speaker)
  - (2) Student Body Representative(s) (5 minutes per speaker)
- C. City Manager
- D. Council Members
- E. Public (3 minutes per speaker)

### 3. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Approval of Council Minutes – March 11, 2019
- B. Receipt of Alderman's Report – March 8, 2019
- C. **First Reading – Bill 19-10** – An Ordinance Amending Chapter 20, Motor Vehicles, Code of the City of Newark, Delaware, By Prohibiting Right Turn on Red Traffic Signal from East Cleveland Avenue to Capitol Trail and Removing References to the Chrysler Facility – **Second Reading – April 22, 2019**
- D. **First Reading – Bill 19-11** – An Ordinance Amending Chapter 2, Administration, Code of the City of Newark, Delaware, Regarding the Provision of Workers Compensation Insurance for All City Full Time Employees and Specified City Part Time Employees – **Second Reading – April 22, 2019**
- E. **First Reading – Bill 19-12** – An Ordinance Amending the Comprehensive Development Plan By Changing the Designation of Property at 20 and 22 Benny Street – **Second Reading – April 22, 2019**
- F. **First Reading – Bill 19-13** – An Ordinance Amending the Zoning Map of the City of Newark, Delaware By Rezoning from RD (One Family Semidetached Residential) to RM (Multifamily Dwellings – Garden Apartments) 0.448 Acres Located at 20 and 22 Benny Street – **Second Reading – April 22, 2019**

4. **ITEMS NOT FINISHED AT PREVIOUS MEETING:** None

\*5. **APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS:** None

### \*6. SPECIAL DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

- A. General Assembly Update and Associated Requests for Council Direction – Lobbyist
- B. **Resolution No. 19-\_\_:** Appointment of Tara Schiano as Acting City Secretary

### \*7. RECOMMENDATIONS ON CONTRACTS & BIDS:

- A. Recommendation to Award Contract No. 19-04 – Furnishing Labor and Equipment for Aerial Line and Underground Cable Relocation

\*8. **FINANCIAL STATEMENT:** None

### \*9. ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING & PUBLIC HEARING:

- A. **Bill 19-07** – An Ordinance Amending the Comprehensive Development Plan By Changing the Designation of Property at 924 Barksdale Road (**See Items 9-B and 10-A**)
- B. **Bill 19-08** – An Ordinance Amending the Zoning Map of the City of Newark, Delaware, By Rezoning from BL (Business Limited) to AC (Adult Community) 6.95 Acres Located at 924 Barksdale Road (**See Items 9-A and 10-A**)
- C. **Bill 19-09** – An Ordinance Amending the Comprehensive Development Plan By Changing the Designation of Property Located at 100, 115, 121 College Square (**See Items 10-B and 10-C**)

### \*10. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION AND/OR PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT:

- A. Request of Columbia Pacific Real Estate Fund III, LP for for the Major Subdivision with Site Plan Approval of 6.95 Acres in Order to Construct a 115 Suite/137 Bed Assisted Living and Memory Care Facility at the Property Located at 924 Barksdale Road (**Agreement and Resolution Attached**) (**See Items 9-A and 9-B**)
- B. Request of Fusco Management for the Major Subdivision with Site Plan Approval for 46.18 Acres In Order to Demolish 106,009 Square Feet of Existing Shopping Center, Construct 57,800 Square Feet of New Shopping Center Buildings and Construct Two Apartment Buildings with 306 Apartment Units at the Property Located at 100, 115 and 121 College Square Shopping Center (**Agreement and Resolution Attached**) (**See Items 9-C and 10-C**)
- C. Request of Fusco Management for a Special Use Permit for 306 Apartment Units in the BB Zone at the Property Located at 100, 115 and 121 College Square Shopping Center (**See Items 9-C and 10-B**)
- D. Request of 96 East Main Street Associates, LLC for the Major Subdivision with Site Plan Approval of 1.15 Acres in Order to Combine the Parcels into One Parcel, Demolish the Existing Structure at 92 East Main Street, Preserve and Rehabilitate Part of the Historic Portion of the Structure at 96 East Main Street and Construct a Mixed Use Building That Includes a Seven-Story, 144-Room Hotel, Commercial Space and 19,500 Square Feet of Office Space with Associated Parking, Amenities and Accessory Uses at the Property Located at 92, 94 and 96 East Main Street (**Agreement and Resolution Attached**) (**See Item 10-E**)
- E. Request of 96 East Main Street Associates, LLC for a Special Use Permit for a 144-Room Hotel in the BB Zoning District at the Property Located at 92, 94 and 96 East Main Street (**See Item 10-D**)

### \*11. ITEMS SUBMITTED FOR PUBLISHED AGENDA:

- A. **Council Members:** None
- B. **Others:** None

\*OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Agenda Posted – March 18, 2019

np 3/22

2839622

## Legal Notice

Notification is hereby given that JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., 1111 Polaris Parkway, Columbus, Ohio 43240 has filed an application with the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (the "OCC") on or about March 22, 2019, as specified in 12 CFR Part 5, for permission to establish a domestic branch at the northeast corner of the intersection of North Chapel Street and East Main Street, Newark, New Castle, DE 19711. Any person wishing to comment on this application may file comments in writing with the Licensing Manager, Large Banks Licensing Operations, 400 7th Street, SW, Washington, D.C. 20219 within 30 days of the date of this publication. The public portion of the filing is available upon request from the OCC. The public may find information about the filing (including the closing date of the comment period) in the OCC's Weekly Bulletin available at [www.occ.gov](http://www.occ.gov).

np 3/22

2838702

## CITY OF NEWARK DELAWARE

### CITY COUNCIL

### NOTICE OF AND AGENDA FOR A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Wednesday – March 27, 2019 – 7:00 p.m.  
Newark City Council Chamber

A Special City Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 27, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber for the purpose of a public hearing, including presentation, Council discussion and public comment on student housing in Newark. Council may give direction to staff and take votes regarding the item, potentially including direction on prioritization of tasks related to addressing student housing in Newark.

/rkb

Agenda Posted – March 20, 2019

np 3/22

2839629

## CITY OF NEWARK DELAWARE

### CITY COUNCIL

### NOTICE OF AND AGENDA FOR A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Tuesday – March 26, 2019 – 7:00 p.m.  
Newark City Council Chamber

A Special City Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 26, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber for the purpose of a public hearing, including staff presentation, Parking Subcommittee presentation, Council discussion and public comment on the Parking Subcommittee parking strategy, staff technical review and implementation plan. Council may give direction to staff and take votes regarding the implementation plan and policy matrix timeline and costs and direction to staff to move forward with implementation of some or all of the recommendations in the plan.

/rkb

Agenda Posted – March 19, 2019

np 3/22

2839627



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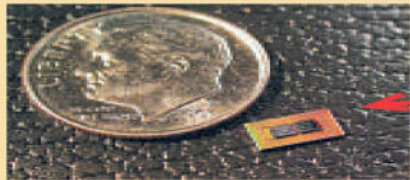
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**Spaces are limited – Call today for your  
FREE Hearing Evaluation!**  
**Now through March 29th, 2019**

**One more thing...**

**Some parts of the evaluation include the  
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or family member with you.**



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\*limit one coupon offer per patient  
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- 3-year Limited Warranty\*\*
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Hearing aids do not restore natural hearing. Individual experiences vary depending on severity of hearing loss, accuracy of evaluation, proper fit and ability to adapt to amplification. \*\*See store for full warranty. †Hearing tests and screenings are always free. Not a medical exam. Audiometric test to determine proper amplification needs only.