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UPDATE



Community helps family

Donations pour in for family whose house burned down
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Citizen found body in backyard of Ray Street home
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Go behind the scenes

Spend a day in the life of a garbage collector
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A year of new beginnings and false starts

Josh Shannon



A year ago when I sat down to compile our annual Year in Review issue, it was apparent that 2014 had been a year when Newark closed the book on several ongoing issues.

The Data Centers nightmare that plagued Newark for more than a year was finally over, and several long-awaited projects – such as the Curtis Mill Park and McKees Solar Park – finally came to fruition.

As the calendar turned over to 2015, it seemed that Newark was destined for a year of new beginnings, a year when the residents and government alike could move past the gridlock caused by the TDC issue and move on to new ideas to propel the city forward.

As I spent the last week compiling a look back at the big stories of the past year, it was clear that 2015 was when, in some senses, the city opened the book on new projects that will likely dominate the next few years.

Or perhaps – to continue the metaphor – it's more accurate to say

See **2015**
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Year in review ** Looking back at 2015



15 biggest stories of 2015

In the year 2015, Newark celebrated some milestones but also saw new challenges emerge. There were moments to celebrate, like the long-awaited revitalization of Newark Shopping Center and the opening of affordable housing at Alder Creek, as well as stories that saddened us, like the drowning of a young girl in a retention pond. Meanwhile, debates raged about a number of topics, such as trash collection, taxes and the future of the Newark Country Club. As 2016 arrives, we take our annual look at the biggest stories from the past year. The list begins on page 8.

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'A community outreach like no other'

Donations pour in for family whose house burned down

By JOSH SHANNON
jshannon@chespub.com

As fire engine after fire engine traveled down Otts Chapel Road with lights flashing, members of the Scarbro family stood on the porch of the Lighthouse Baptist Church parish house and watched in amazement.

They watched as Santa Claus and Rudolph disembarked from one of the fire engines and came to talk to the kids. They looked on as dozens of firefighters formed a modern-day bucket brigade of sorts, lining up and passing present after present into the Scarbros' borrowed home.

"This is so overwhelming; words can't describe it," Chris Scarbro, 41, said, noting the toys were a surprise to his kids, who were told simply that the fire department was coming to drop off clothes. "This is a commu-

nity outreach like no other. This is what Christmas is about."

The Christmas Eve procession was the culmination of an outpouring of support for the Scarbros, whose house burned down just four days before Christmas.

The house in the Yorkshire neighborhood caught fire just before 10 a.m. Dec. 21. Chris Scarbro was the only one home and was able to escape with the family dog, though he was taken to Christiana Hospital to be treated for smoke inhalation.

Once he escaped, his thoughts turned to the family photos he lost and then to the Christmas presents that he and his wife, Amy, had just finished wrapping for their children, ages 6, 9, 12, 15 and 20.

"I could care less for me and my wife; we'll make do always," he said. "But when you have five little ones, the best thing in the world is to see their faces big and bright on Christmas morning when they open presents. We weren't going to be able to do that. My wife had gotten the presents and we'd just wrapped them and they went up in flames."



Firefighters drop off donated presents to the Scarbro family, whose house burned down four days before Christmas.

NEWARK POST PHOTO BY JOSH SHANNON

With the house still smoldering, firefighters from Aetna Hose Hook and Ladder Co. began planning ways to ensure the Scarbros still had a good Christmas. Within hours of the fire, they put

out a call for donations, offering up Station 7 on Thorn Lane as a drop-off point.

The tremendous response surprised even Aetna Chief Drew Bowerson, who said the amount of toys, clothing and other items dropped off overwhelmed the firehouse. Two days in, Aetna asked people to limit their donations to gift cards.

"The way this donation turned out for this family

is unbelievable," Bowerson said. "The community outreach was just phenomenal. It brings a Christmas spirit and makes sure this family had a Christmas."

On Christmas Eve, firefighters met at the station to wrap the gifts and then delivered them to the family along with representatives from the Newark Police Department, Mill Creek Fire Company and Christiana

Fire Company.

Speaking on behalf of his family, Chris Scarbro stood on the porch and addressed the 40 firefighters and their family members who were gathered on the lawn.

"All my life, I've been one that liked to give and wanted to put a smile on other people's faces," he said. "This

See **SCARBRO**
Page 3

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2016

SCARBRO

From Page 2

is overwhelming to be the one on the receiving end. But sometimes you've got to swallow that and say thank you."

In addition, the outreach went beyond the donation drive organized by Aetna.

Immediately after the fire, the Homewood Suites hotel on South College Avenue donated rooms so the family would have a place to stay. For a longer-term solution, Lighthouse Baptist Church offered up its parish house for two months.

Scarbro noted that his family does not attend church at Lighthouse and credited friend Butch Singleton with helping arrange the housing.

"As soon as he saw what happened, he contacted his pastor and found out this was available for a month or two. It's a safe haven for my family, especially the week of Christmas."

The day after the fire, police in Cecil County, Md., picked up the Scarbro children from Tri-State Christian Academy in Elkton and took them on a surprise shopping trip to Walmart, where each child went around with an officer and was able to pick out toys and other items. Other officers wrapped the gifts as the family was treated to lunch at a nearby Chick-fil-A.

The officers had already conducted their annual Shop with a Cop event, but decided to organize a special event for the Scarbros after hearing about the fire.

"In a matter of 16 hours, it all came together," said Julianna Logan, a crime data analyst for the Cecil County Sheriff's Office. "It was all like a boom, boom, boom, let's get it done kind of a day."

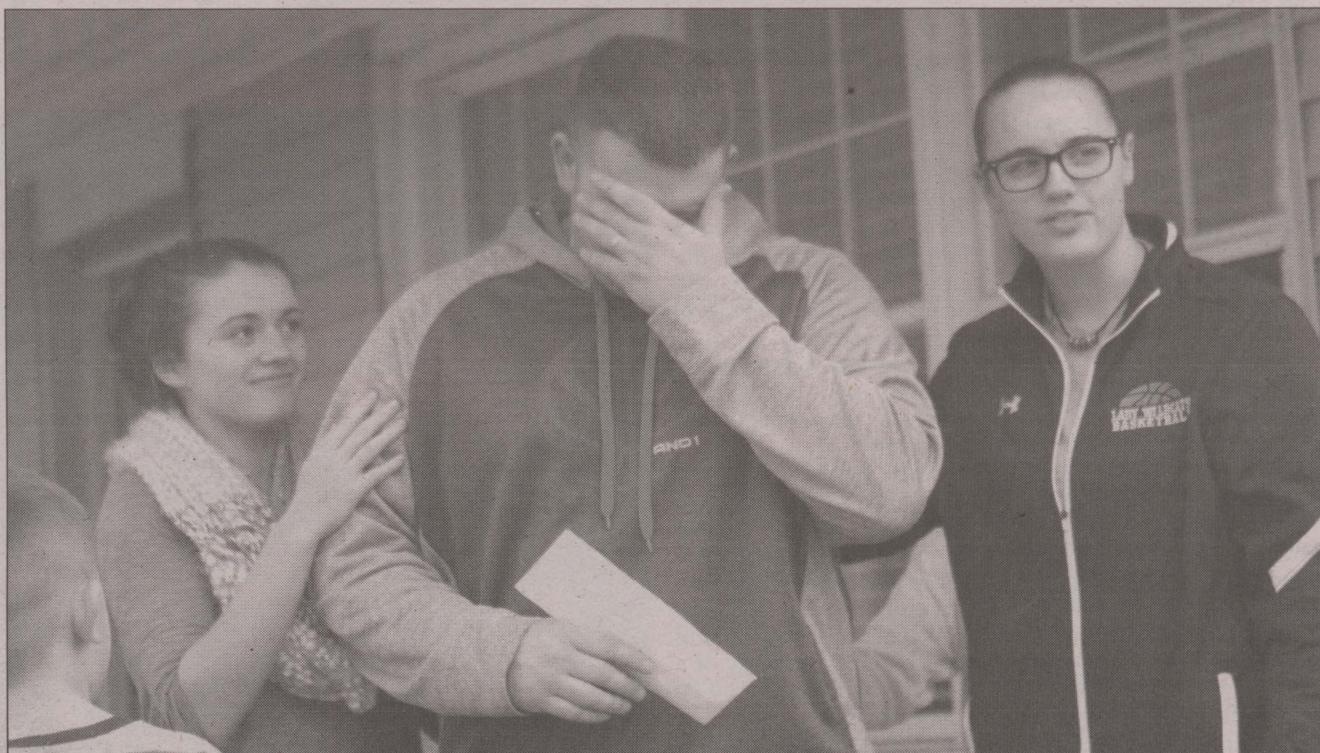
Walmart donated a Christmas tree to the Scarbro family and gave them other funding, she added.

Online, 400 people combined to donate more than \$20,000 through the crowdsourcing website GoFundMe, and Tri-State Christian Academy also accepted donations for the family through its website. In addition to the organized efforts, several individuals offered help, such as a man who stopped by to help wrap gifts, Scarbro said.

As he watched the fire department carry in the last of the gifts, Scarbro was happy to know that his kids would still have a Christmas morning to look forward to.

"It's not going to be exactly the same because we're not in our home, but this is going to be the closest we can come to making it feel like that," he said. "Christmas will probably be, materialistically speaking, bigger and better than they would ever imagine."

Reporter Carl Hamilton contributed to this article.



NEWARK POST PHOTOS BY JOSH SHANNON

Surrounded by family members, Chris Scarbro grows emotional watching firefighters drop off donations.



Santa and Rudolph greet members of the Scarbro family.



Firefighters gather on the lawn of the Lighthouse Baptist Church parish house to listen as Chris Scarbro thanks them for their donations.

The Post Stumper

ANSWERS ON PAGE 6

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Missing man found dead

Body discovered in backyard of Ray Street home

By **KARIE SIMMONS**

ksimmons@chespub.com

The body that was found in the backyard of a home in the unit block of Ray Street on Saturday has been identified as that of 33-year-old Jose Domingo Yanez Cruz, who went missing from his home in the College Park neighborhood last month.

According to Lt. Bill Hargrove, a spokesman for the Newark Police Department, Cruz went to bed in his Madison Drive home on Nov. 22 and was gone when his roommates woke up the next morning. Relatives told officers at the time that Cruz, a citizen of Honduras who has been in the United States for three years, was known to be reliable.

"Cruz has many friends and family members in the area who all say he would not simply walk away from his life," Hargrove said at

the time. "He is a very positive young man who had plans to spend Thanksgiving with his family."

Cruz was employed at a Main Street restaurant, the name of which Hargrove did not disclose, at the time of his disappearance.

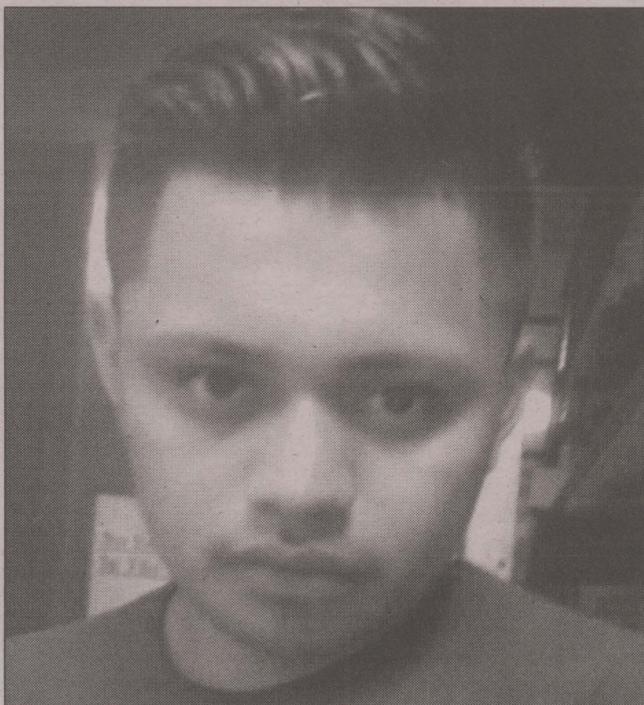
On Saturday, a man's body was found in the backyard of a home in the unit block of Ray Street.

Newark Police Cpl. James Spadola said the body was discovered by a family member of the elderly resident of the home. The family member called police at 12:30 p.m., and responding officers found the body of a man who appeared to be 20 to 30 years old.

Spadola said investigators recovered a passport near the body that identified the man as Cruz.

He said there were "no obvious signs of trauma," but the body had begun to decompose.

The body was turned over to the Division of Forensic Science for an autopsy, and Spadola said police still do not know the cause of death.



CRUZ

Anyone with additional information on this incident should contact Detective James Skinner at 302-366-7100 ext. 3135 or James.skinner@cj.state.de.us. You can send an anonymous text message tip by texting

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Burglar stole security camera, but not before it captured his photo

Someone stole nearly \$1,500 worth of electronics from a North Street home while the residents were away on Christmas, police say.

According to Newark Police spokesman Cpl. James Spadola, the break-in occurred at approximately 8:45 p.m. Christmas Day when a man entered the home in the unit block of North Street through a first-floor kitchen window. Spadola said the suspect broke the lock on the window to gain entry.

The thief took an Xbox 360 worth \$400, a security camera worth \$200, an iPhone 4, a gray Toshiba laptop worth \$400 and a bluetooth wireless speaker estimated at \$100.

Spadola said the residents were not home at the time of the burglary; however, a security camera captured an image of the suspect and uploaded the photo to a database before he grabbed the device.

Police continue to investigate the incident and are using the image to identify the suspect, Spadola said.

Video game console swiped on DART bus

A man is missing his Nintendo 3DS after he left it on a DART bus Saturday, police say.

According to Newark Police spokesman Cpl. James Spadola, the victim left the portable video gaming console, estimated to be worth \$300, on the bus by accident when he got off on East Delaware Avenue at 12:18 p.m.

After he realized it was missing, Spadola said, the victim called the bus company. The bus returned, but the device was no longer on board.

Spadola said security footage from the bus is pending and police continue to investigate. There are no suspects at this time.

Burglar steals electronics, pours bleach on residents' clothes

Police are looking for the person or group of people who broke into a home on Prospect Avenue over the weekend, stole thousands of dollars

worth of electronics and then dumped bleach all over the residents' bedrooms.

According to Newark Police spokesman Cpl. James Spadola, the incident occurred sometime between Saturday and Monday when the suspect, or suspects, broke a small window on the first floor and entered the house through the kitchen before ransacking the bedrooms and stealing valuables.

Among the stolen items were a \$800 video projector, two tower speakers worth \$600, a Yamaha stereo receiver worth \$500, a Nintendo GameCube, a 32-inch TV, a Samsung tablet worth \$350, a \$250 electric drill, two Xbox 360s worth \$300 each, various video games, a silver bracelet worth \$300, an iPhone 6, a MacBook laptop and two box cutters.

After taking the items, the burglars poured bleach all over the residents' bedrooms, covering their clothes and beds and causing roughly \$500 in damage. He said the residents are University of Delaware students.

Police continue to investigate the burglary and have no suspects at this time.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF NPD

Master Cpl. Marc DiFrancesco, one of several Newark Police officers trained to use naloxone, used the medication to revive three people in a 24-hour span over the Christmas holiday.

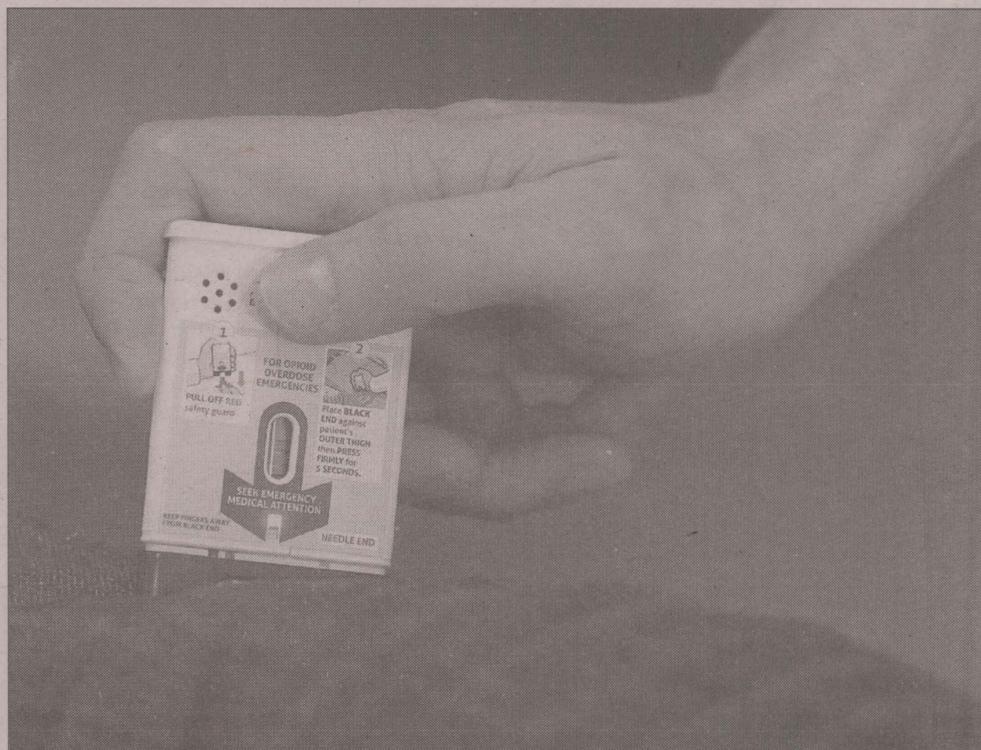


PHOTO COURTESY OF DHSS

Fifteen Newark Police Department supervisors have been trained and equipped to administer naloxone doses like this to people suffering heroin overdoses.

Officer saves three from drug overdose in 24 hours

By **KARIE SIMMONS**

ksimmons@chespub.com

In a 24-hour period that started around 5 p.m. on Christmas Eve, Newark Police Master Cpl. Marc DiFrancesco used naloxone to revive three overdose victims during separate incidents.

According to Cpl. James Spadola, a spokesman for the Newark Police Department, DiFrancesco

made the first save in the 200 block of Suburban Drive. He responded at approximately 5 p.m. Christmas Eve for a report of a 43-year-old man who was possibly overdosing.

When DiFrancesco arrived, he found the man unresponsive and with constricted pupils. He injected him with a dose of naloxone — which works by blocking a person's opiate receptors — and the man

became alert shortly after. Two hours later, DiFrancesco responded to another overdose call in the 200 block of East Delaware Avenue.

Spadola said EMTs were already on scene and believed the subject, a 50-year-old man, was experiencing a drug overdose. DiFrancesco arrived immediately after and administered two doses of naloxone, successfully reviving

the man.

DiFrancesco made a third save at approximately 4:15 p.m. Christmas Day in the 1000 block of South College Avenue after he encountered an unresponsive 60-year-old female with constricted pupils and labored breathing. He injected her with naloxone, and she recovered after two doses, Spadola said.

All three patients were taken to Christiana Hospi-

tal for further evaluation.

DiFrancesco is the third Newark officer to successfully administer the overdose-reversing medication since NPD received doses from the state in October.

Sgt. Scott Simpson, one of several NPD officers trained to use naloxone, made the first save Nov. 15 at the Rodeway Inn.

Use of naloxone — sometimes referred to by the brand name Narcan — in-

creased in Delaware last year after the state legislature passed bills allowing police officers and high school nurses to use it and permitting family members of addicts to be trained in its use.

In addition to NPD, officers in the New Castle County Police Department and the towns of Elsmere, Middletown and Ocean View have been trained to use naloxone.

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Evaluating our predictions for 2015

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

Last January, we broke out our crystal balls and predicted the 15 stories to watch in 2015.

How accurate were our prognostications? Let's take a look at how each story turned out.

1. Council will vote on a stormwater fee: Council did not end up voting on a stormwater fee based on impervious surfaces as had been discussed for more than a year. However, the board did increase property taxes by 9.5 percent, effective this coming July. Part of the additional revenue will be earmarked for infrastructure projects.

2. Debate over park-

ing garage will continue: The subject of the long-sought parking garage was broached several times, but each time, council decided to put off making any decisions. Most recently, in November, the board told city staff to delay issuing a request for proposal soliciting interest in a public-private partnership to build the garage.

3. Three council seats will be up for election: After a contentious election, voters decided to keep the status quo, re-electing all three incumbents. Mark Morehead and Marge Hadden won tight races over Joe Charma and Ron Walker, respectively. Meanwhile, Todd Ruckle cruised to victory over Glenn Sch-

alhofer, who was dogged by questions about his residency and did not mount an active campaign.

4. UD will close West Campus and consider selling land: The University of Delaware closed down the aging Rodney and Dickinson dorms after the spring semester, sending them off with a ceremony during Alumni Weekend in June. However, the most intriguing development came three months earlier, when city officials acknowledged interest in purchasing the Rodney site to build a stormwater pond and park.

5. A pedestrian signal will be installed at a problematic Main Street crossing: Installation of the signal was delayed

twice, and 2015 ended with no relief for motorists who get stuck at the crossing during UD class changes. The latest delay was blamed on special-order decorative poles requested and paid for by UD. The signal is now slated to be installed after classes let out for the summer.

6. Two apartment buildings will open as construction of hotel begins: The two buildings, at 58 E. Main St. and 201 E. Delaware Ave., opened in time for students to move in over the summer. Construction began in June on the six-story, 101-room Candlewood Suites extended-stay hotel on South College Avenue. It is slated to open this summer. Meanwhile, council approved an additional 80 units of rental housing in and around downtown.

7. Improvements at shopping centers will continue: The renovation of Newark Shopping Center dominated business news in Newark throughout most of the year, and in September, officials held a grand re-opening ceremony. Progress at the Park N Shop Plaza on South Main Street has been slow, but across town, the owners of College Square offered the public a first glimpse at plans to upgrade that aging shopping center. Meanwhile, Fairfield Shopping Center is in need of a new anchor store after Superfresh went out of business in November.

8. School board will hold tax referendum: In March, voters overwhelmingly denied the Christina School District's request for a tax hike. Two months later, the district tried again, but the answer was the same. As a result, board members cut programs and teachers.

9. Alder Creek affordable housing development will open: The first residents of the Newark Housing Authority proj-



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What lies in Newark's future?
Counting down the 15 stories to watch in 2015

In the first Newark Post issue of 2015, the newspaper staff made predictions about the stories to watch in the coming year.

ect on Cleveland Avenue moved into their new apartments in September, and more joined them in the ensuing months. "It's been a blessing. I thank God every morning," resident Deandra Carter said in November.

10. Tax hike will take effect: In July, Newarkers saw a 1.5 percent property tax increase. However, that will look like nothing come July 2016, when the 9.5 percent hike approved in November goes into effect.

11. STAR Campus development will continue: It will take years, maybe even decades, until UD's dream for the former Chrysler site is fully realized, but the STAR Campus saw several promising developments in 2015. This fall, the technology firm SevOne opened an office housing more than 200 employees, and Glasgow Medical Center opened an urgent care facility.

12. Streetlights will be converted to LED bulbs: In October, council approved spending \$460,000 to purchase nearly 2,000 LED street lights. The lights, which last much longer than traditional light bulbs, will save the city \$90,573 per year in reduced energy and maintenance costs. Installation began in December and will continue into 2016.

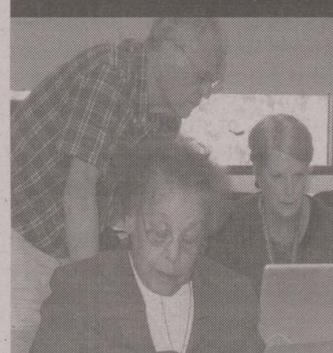
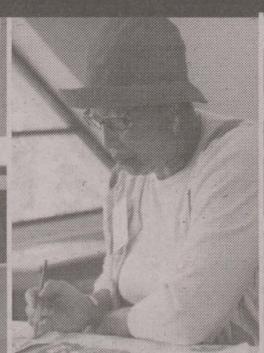
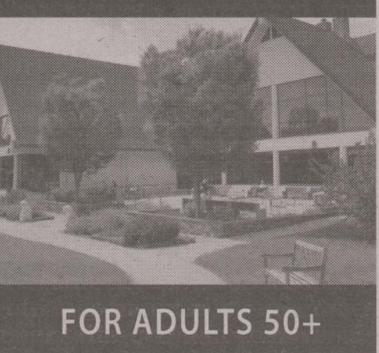
13. Newark's community garden will open: Harsh winter weather delayed the opening of the garden at Fairfield Park, but before long, the garden plots were overflowing with a bounty of vegetables. "I was thinking we'd have 10 or 15 gardeners the first year, but we have over 40 garden plots out here," Parks and Recreation Director Charlie Emerson said at a dedication ceremony in June. "That's amazing."

14. Christina schools will consider district-wide uniforms: The school board abandoned plans to implement a district-wide uniform, opting instead to allow individual schools to decide whether to implement such a policy. This fall, Jones Elementary became Christina's first suburban elementary school to implement uniforms. Middle schools and the district's elementary schools in Wilmington already mandated uniforms.

15. DNP will work on building sculpture park: Plans to convert an unused and unattractive piece of land near the CSX tracks across from The Deer Park Tavern into a sculpture park did not come to fruition, but officials made progress behind the scenes. Work on the park is expected to begin in 2016.

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A look at how Newark businesses changed in 2015

By KARIE SIMMONS

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Newark welcomed quite a few new businesses to Main Street and elsewhere in 2015, but residents also had to say goodbye to some old favorites. Below are some of the restaurants, stores and other businesses that opened in Newark in the past year, as well as some that closed.

The first new business in Newark in 2015 was **Tea Dó**, which opened its doors at 101 Carroll Court off Amstel Avenue. The “contemporary tea house” serves coffee, teas and other specialty drinks as well as desserts and appetizers like onigiri, a Japanese food made from white rice wrapped in seaweed and formed into a triangle.

After less than two years on Main Street, **Melt Down** closed in January. The gourmet grilled cheese shop opened in March 2013 at 145 E. Main St., the former home of the Post House Restaurant. Melt Down closed unexpectedly in January, leaving one of Main Street’s most iconic buildings searching for a tenant once again.

However, it wasn’t long after Melt Down flipped its last grilled cheese sandwich that **Duck Donuts** took its place. Popular in the Outer Banks of North Carolina, the eatery opened at 145 E. Main St. in July, serving freshly made cake-style donuts. Customers use an order form to choose between approximately 15 toppings and glazes, and can then watch the doughnuts being made. In addition, the shop serves coffee, muffins, breakfast sandwiches and “doughnut sundaes,” which are doughnuts topped with ice cream.

The famous Stone Balloon returned to Main Street in January after a 10-year hiatus — sort of. **The Stone Balloon Ale House** opened in January at 115 E. Main St., its name a nod to the legendary music venue and bar it replaced. The original Stone Balloon opened in 1972 and became well known for its Thursday Mug Night promotion and its live music. The legendary bar closed in 2005, and the Washington House luxury condominiums were built in its place. The Stone Balloon Winehouse opened on the first floor of the Washington House in 2009. In the summer of 2013, the restaur-

ant partnered with 16 Mile Brewery Co. in Georgetown and changed the name of the eatery to 16 Mile Taphouse. Last August, the restaurant was purchased by High 5 Hospitality, which eventually changed the name again, returning the historic Stone Balloon moniker to Main Street once again.

In March, **El Diablo** became the fifth Mexican restaurant on Main Street and the sixth in the downtown area at the time. The eatery, located at 127 E. Main St. in the former home of D.P. Dough, which closed last June, features made-to-order burritos, quesadillas, tacos and salads. The Newark spot is the company’s third location in Delaware. El Diablo currently has restaurants in the Trolley Square neighborhood of Wilmington and in Branmar Plaza in North Wilmington.

Newark Natural Foods Co-op made its third move in 40 years this past April when the store left Market East Plaza and opened in the Newark Shopping Center at 230 E. Main St. The 10,800-square-foot first floor boasts a grocery store and cafe. Beneath the store is an additional 6,000 square feet of space for administrative purposes and community use.

The Co-op’s departure from Market East Plaza freed up space for **Audio Works** to take its place over the summer. The store, which specializes in the sales, service and installation of all things audio-related, now has more than double the space of its old location in the Newark Shopping Center.

In May, hungry Newarkers began heading to **Ramen Kumamoto**, located behind Subway in Traders Alley on Main Street, for a taste of authentic Japanese ramen noodles. The eatery, named after the city of Kumamoto in Japan, offers appetizers, small plates and main dishes such as curry platters, rice bowls, ramen noodles with chicken, pork or vegetarian and udon, which is a thick white Japanese noodle.

After celebrating its long history with a “throwback party,” **Del Sol** closed its doors in the basement of 60 N. College Ave. on July 1. Since the late 1970s, the space has been home to several establishments including the Mexican restaurant



NEWARK POST PHOTO BY JOSH SHANNON

Duck Donuts opened in July in the former Post House building on Main Street, replacing the gourmet grilled cheese shop Melt Down.

Del Sol, La Tolteca, Tracks Restaurant, Maxweel T’s, The Ground Floor and; from 1977 to 1996, The Down Under. The building, which was also home to Unique Impressions and Endless Summer Salon and Tan, was leveled in October so Lang Development Group could start constructing North College Crossing — a four-story mixed-use building with commercial space and parking on the first floor and apartments on the three floors above. Lang has said Del Sol will move back in once construction is complete. In anticipation of the building’s demolition, **Unique Impressions** moved its operations to 61 E. Main St.

North Star neighbors Jim O’Donoghue and Lee Mikles breathed new life into the former home of Mojo Main when they transformed the once-dingy music venue and bar into a craft beer hub over the summer. The first-time restaurateurs opened **Grain Craft Bar+Kitchen** at 270 E. Main St. in July, using the Food and Brew Fest as the kick-off event. The gastropub serves up sharable plates, burgers, salads and entrees like crab cakes and mac-and-cheese chili and boasts live music throughout the week on a stage sponsored by Dogfish Head Brewery. Grain also has an outdoor patio, where customers can lounge on couches and eat at long, Oktoberfest-style tables.

Downtown Newark lost two restaurants over the summer. **Mizu Sushi Bar**, which opened at 132 E. Main St. in 2009, closed July 31. Owner Michael Suh said he shut the eatery down due to

a “leasing issue.”

A few days later, **Kildare’s** abruptly closed. The Irish-themed restaurant opened in July 2008 on the second floor of the Main Street Galleria. The Newark Kildare’s was part of a chain of five restaurants owned by the Dave Magrogan Group. Locations in Pennsylvania — West Chester, Manayunk, State College and Scranton — remain open.

A fast-growing trend in entertainment made its way to Newark this fall when Bill Wright and his girlfriend, Vanessa, opened **Exodus Escape Rooms** in August at 284 E. Main Street, near the intersection of Tyre Avenue. The building most recently housed an accountant’s office. Customers get locked in a room and are given a set amount of time to use puzzles, brainteasers and other clues to find a way to escape. Meanwhile, employees watch the action through a surveillance system and can feed hints to the participants as needed.

The 60-year-old **Newark Shopping Center** got a much-needed facelift this year, concluding with a grand re-opening ceremony in September. Atlantic Realty Co., the Virginia-based company that bought the center in 2012, poured \$10 million dollars into the project, which also includes a six-story, 220-unit apartment building and parking garage still under construction behind the center. Atlantic Realty sold that portion of land to The Bainbridge Companies. The complex, named One Easton, is currently pre-leasing for the 2016-17 school year.

The shopping center reno-

vements attracted new tenants like **Newark Natural Foods Co-Op**, the barber-shop chain **Sports Clips** and **Big Z Pizza**, which moved into the old Pizza U location in November. Newark Discount Liquors moved two doors down so that Goodwill could expand in the renovated shopping center earlier this year.

Still, some businesses couldn’t afford to stick around. Behind in rent and unable to pay for needed upgrades, the **Newark Cinema Center** closed its doors shortly after the shopping center’s grand re-opening. The closing concluded a months-long eviction process that began in July, when Atlantic Realty filed court papers alleging that the theater owed it rent, late fines and other fees. A court awarded the company \$15,000 and possession of the Cinema Center space in response to the lawsuit.

Main Street got a little less sweet when **SAS Cupcakes** closed on Sept. 30. Mike and Tara Voigt of Fair Hill, Md., opened the cupcake, candy and gift shop at 134 E. Main St. in 2007 under the name Sweet-and-Sassy Cupcakes, but announced in September via email that the store would be closing at the end of the month. The space remains vacant.

In October, two local men opened a used tool consignment shop in Cooch’s Bridge Industrial Park at 1247 Old Cooch’s Bridge Rd., called **Delaware Tool Exchange**. Owners use Craigslist to advertise products, and potential buyers come to the storefront to make the transaction and browse other merchandise.

In November, **SevOne** moved its Pike Creek office into a new two-story, 50,000-square-foot space on the STAR Campus next to UD’s College of Health Sciences complex, located in the former Chrysler administration building. The network and data center performance management company was launched in 2005 by UD graduates and, in addition to Delaware, boasts offices in Philadelphia, Boston, London, Amsterdam, Hong Kong, Moscow and Bulgaria.

Pathmark in College Square became an Acme in November, while **Superfresh** in Fairfield Shopping Center closed for good. Both moves trace back to the recent bankruptcy of New Jersey-based Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company, Inc. — commonly known as A&P — which owns both the Pathmark and Superfresh brands. In July, company officials announced plans to close 25 stores and sell 120, including the Pathmark in College Square. The store closed Nov. 12 and reopened three days later as an Acme. Superfresh was originally on the list of stores to be sold to Acme, but Acme reportedly backed out of purchasing it. The space remains vacant.

In November, **Glasgow Medical Center** expanded to the University of Delaware’s STAR Campus, bringing an urgent care center to the growing medical and business park. The medical aid unit is located in the renovated space along South College Avenue that used to serve as Chrysler’s administration building. The 5,500-square-foot facility includes 10 exam rooms, X-ray facilities, a trauma room and space that can be leased by other doctors and is expected to treat upward of 20,000 people each year.

Newarkers started screaming for ice cream Dec. 3 when **Dairy Queen** opened at 74 E. Main St. The eatery sits in a small, standalone building sandwiched between Indian Sizzler and Del Pez that was a Marine recruiting office for several years and most recently housed a temporary apartment leasing office. The Main Street location sells a full selection of ice cream, Orange Julius drinks and ice cream cakes, as well as chili cheese dogs, sandwiches and snack wraps.

Newark Shopping Center renovations top year's news

1 Newark Shopping Center is revitalized

The long-awaited revitalization of the aging Newark Shopping Center finally came to fruition this fall, but not without a few hiccups.

Announced in late 2013, the \$10 million project began in earnest the following year. By January, some merchants were complaining that the construction noise and broken pavement in the parking lot were driving customers away. The Saigon Vietnamese Restaurant, in business for nearly two decades, closed after years of struggling to stay afloat.

However, most businesses survived the temporary inconvenience, and in April, the shopping center got a major boost when Newark Natural Foods relocated there, opening an expanded grocery store and café. In September, with the bulk of the work done, merchants, city officials and shopping center management celebrated the revitalization with a daylong ceremony that coincided with the plaza's 60th anniversary.

A short time later, though, came news that devastated many local moviegoers. Behind on rent, the Newark Cinema Center was evicted from the shopping center and forced to close its doors. A national theater chain was reportedly nearing a deal to take over the space, but no definite plans have been announced.

2 Trash outsourcing sparks debate

For much of 2015, debate raged over the unlikeliest of subjects: trash. In March, city officials floated a plan to outsource trash collection to a private hauler, which they later estimated would save the city \$4.9 million over seven years.

However, many Newarkers responded with outrage and indignation, saying they value the city service and have gotten to know their trash collector. Residents packed a special council workshop



David Ross, president of Atlantic Realty Co., presents an award to Marilyn Minster, longtime owner of Minster's Jewelers, at the grand reopening of Newark Shopping Center in September.

to lobby against the plan, with one woman saying she would "rather go to hell" than have a private waste hauler.

Feeling the political pressure, council voted unanimously to reject the privatization proposal. As a result, the city spent nearly \$1 million to buy new trash trucks, and the residents' comments were cited when council voted later to raise taxes.

3 Council discusses rezoning country club property

Amid concerns the Newark Country Club could rekindle plans to sell its land to a developer, Councilman Luke

Chapman in August proposed downzoning the site to limit the density of any future housing development there.

Representatives of the club swiftly condemned the unusual move and filed suit against the city, claiming the downzoning would devalue the West Main Street property by \$7 million.

After much debate and a series of procedural moves, council ultimately rejected the rezoning, as well as an alternative proposal that would have halted rezoning while the country club submitted a plan to convert the property to a senior housing development.

4 Harker resigns as UD president

In March, Patrick Harker announced he would resign as president of the University of Delaware effective June 30 to become chief executive officer of the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia.

His eight-year tenure at UD was marked by tremendous growth – such as the acquisition of the former Chrysler property and the opening of a new science and engineering building – but also controversy, such as The Data Centers issue.

Nancy Targett, dean of the University of Delaware's College of Earth, Ocean, and Environment, has served as interim president, and in November, the board of trustees selected Dennis Assanis, provost and senior vice president of academic affairs at Stony Brook University, as the new president. Assanis will assume the role next summer.

5 Crashes prompt changes

Two fatal alcohol-involved crashes, as well as a much-publicized train-vehicle collision, sent officials scrambling to make safety changes.

On March 8, 22-year-old Amanda Hagelstein was struck and killed as she crossed Delaware Avenue near South Chapel Street. The driver who allegedly hit her was charged with DUI and leaving the scene of an accident. Two weeks later, Millard Loftland, 30, was killed when the car in which he was a passen-

ger slammed into a tree on South College Avenue. The driver was charged with second-degree vehicular homicide and DUI. They marked the fourth and fifth alcohol-related traffic deaths in Newark in two years.

In response, Newark Police Department brass instructed patrol officers to increase their vigilance in spotting impaired drivers, and the department's Street Crimes Unit and Special Operations Unit each dedicated some time to DUI enforcement. In May, Newark Police, UD Police and the Delaware Office of Highway Safety teamed up for two weeks of "saturation patrols" targeting drunken drivers.

On June 21, it was a train crash that garnered attention. An elderly man drove onto the train tracks near The Deer Park Tavern, and two NPD officers pulled him out just before a train smashed into his vehicle. The crash was the eighth such incident there and prompted officials to install more signage, striping and tubular markers to better delineate the boundaries of the road.

6 Christina loses referendum bids, superintendent

It was a tumultuous year for the Christina School District.

In February, voters overwhelming defeated a proposed tax increase that would have helped the district close a \$9 million budget gap. Christina tried again in May after reducing the proposed increase and doing more community outreach, but that attempt was also voted down.

In response, the school board cut programs and teachers, most notably eliminating librarians in middle and high schools.

As the district attempted to get back on its feet, Superintendent Freeman Williams took a sudden medical leave in August and later announced he will retire this coming February. Former Red Clay Consolidated School District Superintendent Robert Andrzejewski has been serving as interim superintendent.

Meanwhile, the district continues to prepare for the proposed Wilmington schools realignment, in which Red Clay would take over Christina's inner-city schools.

7 Girl drowns at Newark Country Club

A family party on the grounds of the George Wilson Center turned tragic June 13 when 4-year-old Mariah Nevaeh Selby slipped through a hole in the fence and drowned in a retention pond at the Newark Country Club.

Later, relatives returned to the site to hold a vigil honoring Mariah and expressed anger that the fence was allowed to fall into disrepair. The city of Newark eventually installed a temporary fence on the George Wilson Center property.

In 2001, an 8-year-old boy drowned in the same pond.

8 Taxes, fees increased again

Taxes and fees in Newark continue to rise as council passed a series of hikes in November and December.

Starting this coming July, taxes will increase 9.5 percent. Part of the additional money will be earmarked for upgrades to the stormwater system.

Council also raised water rates 7.2 percent and sewer rates 8.4 percent.

In total, an average resident will pay an additional \$115 per year.



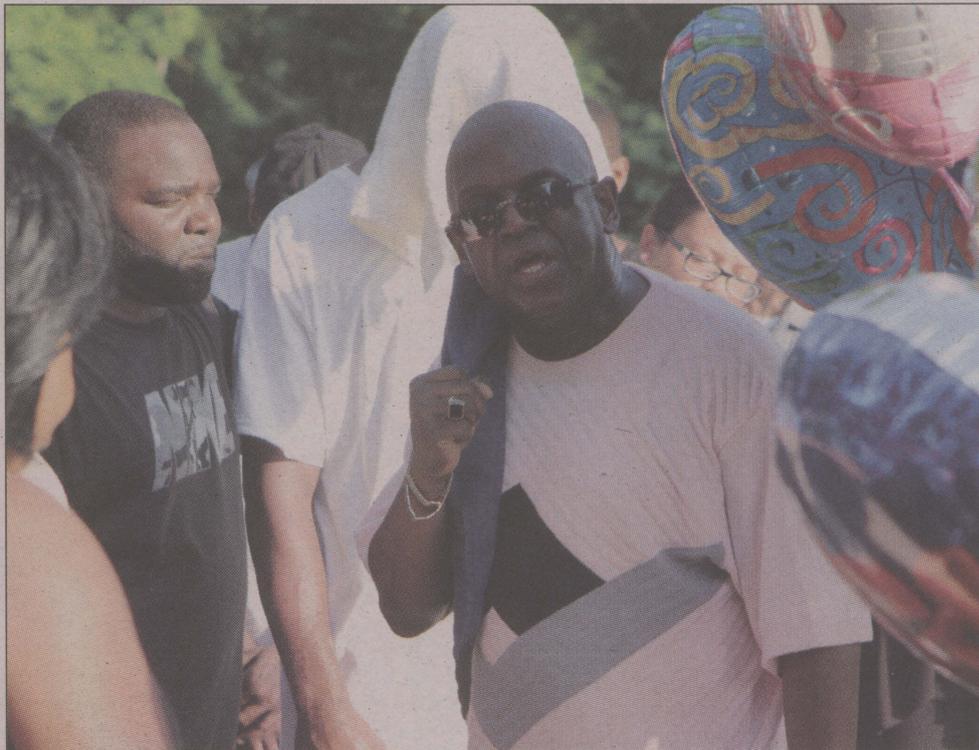
NEWARK POST PHOTO BY KARIE SIMMONS

Rhonetta Wilmore sits on her couch with her 7-year-old son Jyair (right) and 12-year-old daughter Keaira (left) in November. The family had recently moved into a new apartment in Alder Creek, the new 56-unit housing complex built on the former Cleveland Heights property off Cleveland Avenue.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NPD

A 76-year-old New Jersey man narrowly escaped before a train hit his SUV near the Deer Park Tavern in June.



NEWARK POST PHOTO BY JOSH SHANNON

The Rev. John Nichols, Mariah Selby's great-great uncle, speaks at a vigil for the 4-year-old, who drowned in a Newark Country Club retention pond in June.

9 Growth of student apartments continues

In January, a consultant hired by the city presented the results of a study of Newark's housing market. The report found that Newark needs to build 50 additional apartment units each year to keep up with an increase in renters and maintain the same vacancy rate, but taking into consideration already approved projects, the city's housing market will be able to satisfy demand until at least 2019.

Officials are still waiting for the results of the second part of the study, which is expected to suggest policy changes. But as the city waits, it was another banner year for apartment construction.

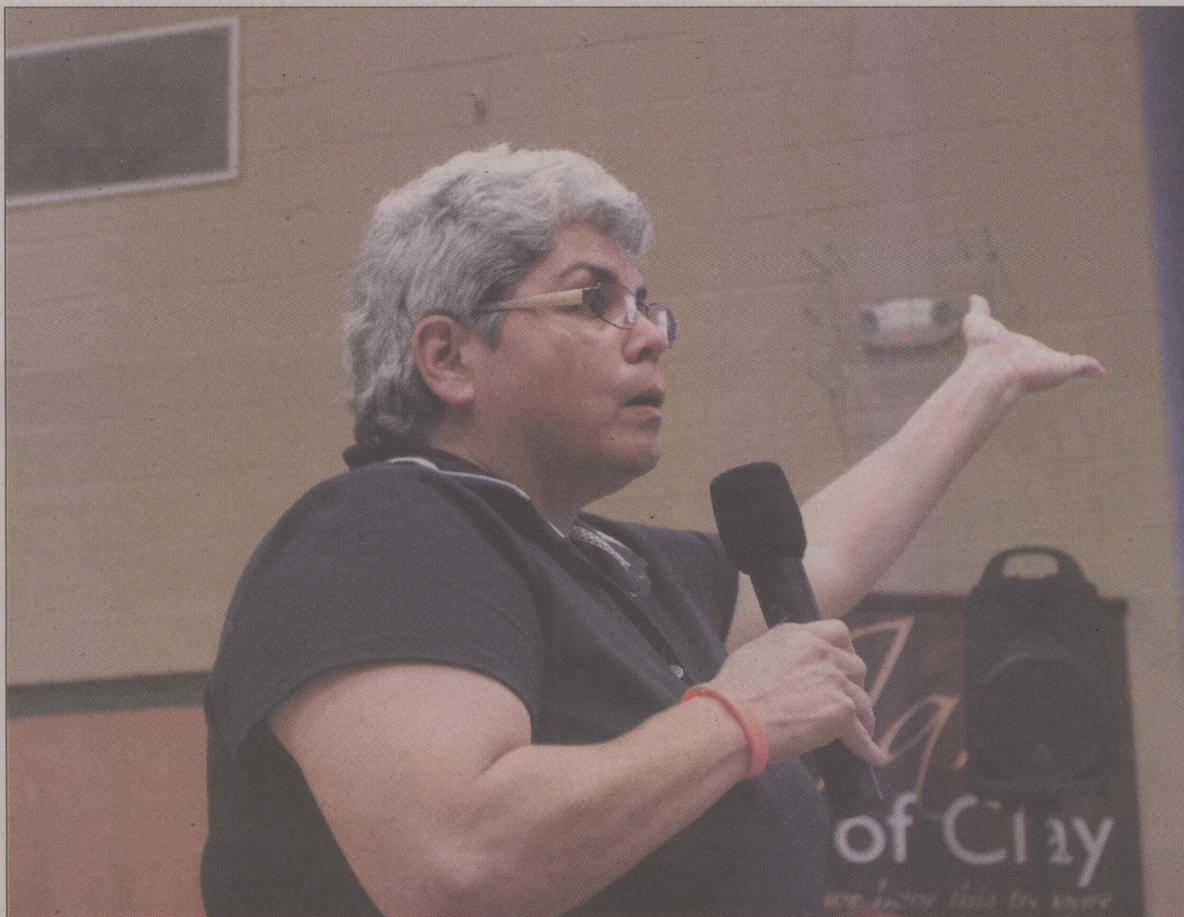
Council approved a total of 80 new units of rental housing, comprised of separate projects on Cleveland Avenue, North Chapel Street, South Chapel Street and North College Avenue. The year also saw the opening of apartment buildings at 201 Delaware Ave. and 58 E. Main St. In addition, work continued on a 220-unit building slated to open this summer behind the Newark Shopping Center.

10 Incumbents hold onto council seats

A contentious election season ended rather anti-climatically, with voters re-electing all three incumbents. In District 1, Mark Morehead edged out challenger Joe Charma with 53 percent of the vote. The District 4 race was even closer, with Marge Hadden besting Ron Walker by just 12 votes. In District 2, Todd Ruckle won in a landslide over landlord Glenn Schmalhofer, who faced questions about his residency and did not mount an active campaign.

11 City expresses interest in Rodney site

Last year, UD announced intentions to close and sell the Rodney and Dickinson dorm complexes



NEWARK POST PHOTO BY KARIE SIMMONS

Resident Natasha Ortega expresses her concerns about a plan to outsource trash collection during a public meeting in September.

on Hillside Road. In March, the city publicly acknowledged it is considering purchasing the Rodney site to build a stormwater pond and park.

The multi-million-dollar project, which would likely require approval from taxpayers via a referendum, would help relieve flooding in the Old Newark neighborhood. Initial renderings of the pond released in May showed a pedestrian bridge spanning the width of the pond with an island in the center.

Officials are awaiting the second phase of an environmental site as-

essment that could help them negotiate a price for the land.

12 Plan for former orphanage property draws heat

Over the summer, the The Felician Sisters of North America Real Estate Holding Corporation, which owns the former Our Lady of Grace orphanage on East Chestnut Hill Road near Newark, announced plans for a major development on the site.

The initial plan, which called for 282 housing units, including low-income apartments, townhouses, duplexes and single-family

homes, prompted an outcry from neighbors. Some expressed concerns about traffic, flooding and decreased property values, while others worried the new houses would disrupt a pond used by wildlife.

In December, the developer filed a new plan that slightly reduced the number of units and moved the houses farther from the pond, but some neighbors are still opposed.

13 Alder Creek housing project opens

After years of planning, the Newark Housing Authority opened Alder Creek on

Cleveland Avenue in September.

The 56-apartment complex, complete with a community center and playground, replaced the Cleveland Heights housing project that closed in 2008 after falling into disrepair.

Most of the tenants, some of whom had been on the waiting list for years, were able to move in just in time to celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas in their new homes.

14 Plans for College Square revealed

As renovations at Newark Shopping Center came to a close, the owners of College Square announced revitalization plans of their own.

The plans, still in the early stages, call for extending Delaware Avenue through the shopping center, adding pad sites along the road, reconfiguring the parking lot and attracting more "mid-box" tenants, like sports stores, pet stores or craft stores.

So far, no formal plans have surfaced.

15 Fallout from TDC continues

Even though UD killed the controversial data center and power plant proposed for the STAR Campus in 2014, the fallout from yearlong controversy continued throughout 2015.

In February, The Data Centers LLC sued UD, claiming the university backpedaled on promises, buckled under pressure from opposing residents and "schemed in bad faith to sabotage" the project it had lured to Newark.

In September, council voted to refine the definitions of "accessory use" and "neighborhood," two terms in the zoning code that factored into the debate over TDC. The board also discussed changes to the city's noise ordinance, but took no final action.

2015

From
Page 1

Newark has laid out a half-dozen books on the table and is still trying to decide which ones to delve into.

City council considered a variety of proposals – several of which would be expensive, multi-year endeavors – but council members and residents had a tough time reaching a consensus on which directions to go.

Some ideas were dispatched with quickly. Council members briefly flirted with giving themselves raises, but ultimately couldn't pull the trigger. City administrators wanted to study the feasibility of expanding or replacing city hall, but council wasted no time rejecting the idea, instead telling staff members to come up with creative ways to better use the current space. City staff proposed changing Newark's charter to allow the city to borrow money without voter approval, but that idea was toast once the public caught wind of it.

And who can forget the Great Trash Debate of 2015, when Newarkers rose up to defend their favorite garbage men and successfully pressured council to abandon a plan to outsource refuse collection?

But other ideas seemed to linger, with council not willing to move forward, but not willing to kill them off, either.

It was another year of inaction on the proposed parking garage behind the Galleria. The city obtained the final piece of land needed more than a year ago and seemed poised to finally move forward, but council dragged its feet several times. The most recent example came in November when council declined to let developers pitch ideas for a public-private partnership to build the

garage and a possible retail component.

While potential redevelopment of the Newark County Club had been the subject of rumors for some time, the city surprised observers – not to mention the club's owners – with a rare, council-initiated attempt to downzone the property. Following a lawsuit by the club and some political blustering, council decided not to take any action. However, I don't think we've heard the last of that issue. Let's hope cooler heads prevail, and the city and club leadership can find a solution that works – or at least is acceptable – for all parties involved.

In another surprise, the city acknowledged in the spring that it is looking to purchase the University of Delaware's Rodney dorm complex and convert the land to a storm-water pond. The idea got favorable reviews because not only would it alleviate flooding, but it would also block developers from building more housing on the site. However, the big question is, if the city does move to purchase it, will Newarkers put their money where their mouths are and approve a referendum allowing the city to take on the debt needed for the project?

Council also spent much of the year debating whether to explore offering municipal broadband service and whether to ban firearms in city hall. The latter issue will come to a head Jan. 11, and both sides are gearing up for what should prove to be an interesting council meeting.

There was also another one of those only-in-government moments in which the city staff adopted a new logo for Newark only to be reined in by council once the conversion had already started. We're most likely in store for another round of the logo debate, as the new communication manager comes on board in January and will likely bring her own ideas to the table. (For what it's worth,

I think the old logo has a certain small-town charm that the new, corporate-looking one does not.)

Of course, there were some successes in 2015.

The opening of the community garden at Fairfield Park was a perfect example of how volunteers and government can work together for a worthwhile project, and if this year's bounty was any indication, the garden will continue to be an asset for many years to come. The Newark Housing Authority finally opened its Alder Creek complex bringing much-needed affordable housing to the city, Newark Shopping Center is once again an attractive place to shop, you can drive down Elkton Road without the risk of your car being swallowed by a pothole, and the cycle track proposed for Delaware Avenue seems to be moving forward, which is good news for cyclists.

However, as we ring in the new year, we enter 2016 with a lot of unanswered questions. It will be interesting to watch as council members and residents sort through what the city's priorities should be, and just as important, how to pay for any new projects. Political forces could be at play as well, as three council positions and the mayor's seat are all up for election in April.

On the adjacent pages, we've compiled a list of the biggest stories in 2015, a look at how businesses changed in the past year and counted down the top sports stories of the year. As you enjoy the holiday weekend, I invite you to take some time to look back at the year we just finished.

Next Friday, we'll once again dust off our crystal ball and predict the 16 stories to watch in 2016.

Josh Shannon is the editor of the Newark Post. Reach him at 443-907-8437 or jshannon@chespub.com.

15 most-read articles online

In 2015, we posted more than 1,100 local news stories on newarkpostonline.com, attracting nearly 500,000 visitors to the site.

It's hard to say what makes a particular story "go viral" and attract a larger-than-usual audience, but, as usual, we found that a lot of the most popular stories this year were about local businesses or crime.

Below is a list of the 15 most-read stories in 2015.

Newarkpostonline.com is updated several times a day and is always free to all users.

1. Customers try to 'escape' from Main Street's newest attraction
2. UD junior charged with raping another student
3. Newark Cinema Center facing eviction from shopping center
4. Brazilian steakhouse seen as potential draw for Newark Shopping Center
5. Grain opens to rave reviews at Food and Brew Festival
6. Duck Donuts, popular in the Outer Banks, to open in Newark
7. 170 Christina teachers could lose jobs
8. 'She always had a beautiful smile': Family remembers drowning victim
9. Plan lays out new vision for College Square Shopping Center
10. St. Mark's ace Billy Phillips faces toughest opponent yet: leukemia
11. George Thorogood fan selling musician's former home
12. Police identify suspects in April purse snatching
13. Patrons remember The Ground Floor, Down Under bars
14. Stone Balloon name returns to Newark
15. DUI saturation patrols in Newark to begin Saturday



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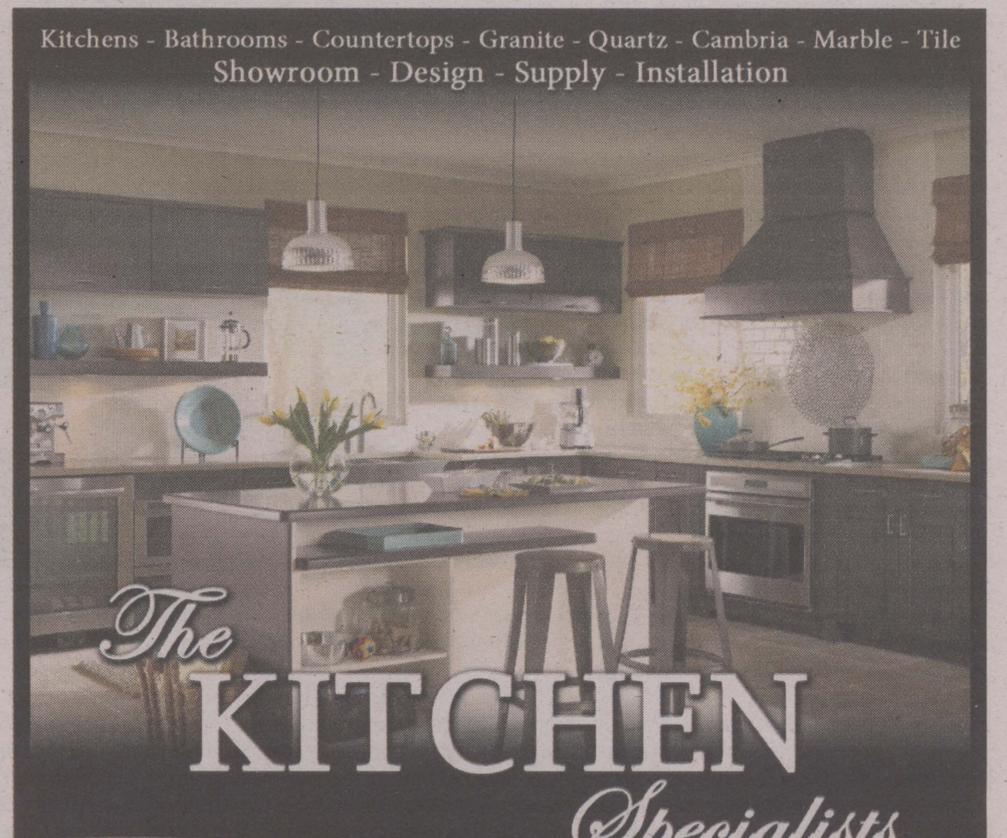
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15 biggest sports stories in 2015

By JON BUZBY

JonBuzby@hotmail.com

It was a memorable year in the world of local sports. Here are my selections for the Top 15 sports stories in the Newark area.

1 Butch Simpson retires
Newark football coach Butch Simpson retired after 39 years at the helm of Delaware's most storied football program. Simpson compiled 284 wins, which is the second most ever by a Delaware high school football coach. He led Newark to 22 state tournament appearances, 14 state championship game appearances and nine state titles, which is more than any other Delaware high school football coach. He was honored after Newark's final game of the season.

2 Monte Ross returns
After much speculation, Blue Hens men's basketball coach Monte Ross' contact was renewed, and he has the Hens off to a solid start despite missing three top players due to injury.

3 UD athletic director resigns
Eric Ziady announced his resignation on Dec. 21, three years into his tenure that included unprecedented fundraising efforts. However, Ziady will perhaps be best remembered for firing football coach K.C. Keeler, the mishandling of the Monte Ross contract renewal and the mid-season dismissal of softball coach Jaime Wohlbach.

4 Rachel Beston wins again
Among many other accomplishments in the sports of track and field and cross-country, Rachel Beston won her second consecutive Blue Hen conference individual cross-country title and was runner-up in the state meet for the second consecutive year. The first-team All-State selection will go down as one of Newark's all-time greatest athletes.

5 Robin Long wins gold in L.A.
The former Newark High swimmer won big at the 2015 Special Olympics World Games. Representing the United States, Robin Long won three gold medals (4x100 medley, 200 free, 100 breast) and placed fourth in the 200 free).

6 UD football team misses playoffs for fifth-straight year
On paper, the Hens won some games unexpectedly and lost some they shouldn't have. The optimists say the future is bright. The pessimists are tired of waiting for the next playoff game. The 2016 season will tell a lot.

7 Glasgow moves to Division II
With just over 900 students enrolled, the Dragons are now playing against schools of similar size, and the Dragons also were one of 17 schools selected by the DIAA for its annual Sportsmanship Award.

8 Newark Charter varsity sports accomplish firsts
In just its second year as a varsity sport, the Newark Charter cross-country team won the school's first Diamond State Conference championship in any sport and placed second in states. In its first year of eligibility, the girls volleyball team became the first team to qualify for a DIAA tournament.



NEWARK POST PHOTO BY DAVID MELLON

Members of the 1977 team, Butch Simpson's first year as head coach, present him with a trophy following his final game on Nov. 13.

9 Sevens attendance jumps
The 87ers wrapped up their second season in Delaware with a 20-30 record, up eight wins from their inaugural season. The Sevens also recorded their first three sellouts and averaged 2,140 fans per game inside the Bob Carpenter Center, an attendance increase of 33 percent, the second largest increase in the 18-team league last year.

10 Dragon is drafted
Aaron Coates was drafted by the St. Louis Cardinals in the 31st round of the Major League Baseball draft.

11 Delaware Rugby team reinstated
Having proven its commitment to changes since its suspension, the UD club team earned an early reinstatement and this past fall compiled a 5-3 record playing an independent schedule under first-year head coach Struan Murray. This spring, the Blue Hens will compete in the Rugby East conference, which includes several Top 20 teams.

12 Glasgow girls and boys run to titles
Simeon Dailey, Darius Blalock, Malachi Harris and Jay Whalen sprinted to a first-place finish in the 4x400 relay at the DIAA State Outdoor Track and Field Championship. Whalen also won the 400-meter individual championship. Ashley Pearce, Maysha Foster, Desiree Singleton and Feyi Solanke sprinted to the 4x400 relay outdoor state championship.

13 Newark runners win state titles
The Yellowjackets' 4x800 relay team of Jarod Wilson, Daniel Mwaniki, Brandon Smith and Greg Biddle captured the state championship. Wilson also won the 800-meter run.

14 Eelijah Beckham wins hurdle title
Beckham was the lone Christiana track champion in 2015 after capturing the 100-meter hurdle title.

15 Blue Hens field hockey wins third straight CAA title
At the helm of perhaps the most unrecognized successful team in the First State, head coach Rolf van de Kerkhof led UD to its third consecutive conference championship.

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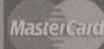
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LEGAL NOTICES

THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS FOR THE STATE OF DELAWARE IN AND FOR NEW CASTLE COUNTY IN RE: CHANGE OF NAME OF NANCI P. HARDAM Petitioner(s) TO NANCI H. HARDHAM NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that NANCI P. HARDAM 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 NANCI H. HARDHAM. NANCI P. HARDAM Petitioner Dated: 12/10/2015 np 12/18,25,1/1 2597837

LEGAL NOTICES

THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS FOR THE STATE OF DELAWARE IN AND FOR NEW CASTLE COUNTY IN RE: CHANGE OF NAME OF REBECCA JAN GRABINSKI Petitioner(s) TO REBECCA JAN SMITH NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that REBECCA JAN GRABINSKI 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 REBECCA JAN SMITH. REBECCA JAN GRABINSKI Petitioner Dated: 12/13/2015 np 12/18,25,1/1 2597479

LEGAL NOTICES

Estate of HAROLD G. ROTH, Deceased. Notice is hereby given that Letters Testamentary upon the estate of HAROLD G. ROTH, aka HAROLD GEORGE ROTH who departed this life on the 28th day of October, A.D. 2015, late of 716 BENT LANE, NEWARK, DE 19711, were duly granted unto GORDON W. ROTH, aka GORDON WAYNE ROTH on December 17, 2015, and all persons indebted to the said deceased are requested to make payments to the Personal Representative without delay, and all persons having demands against the deceased are required to exhibit and present the same duly probated to the said Personal Representative on or before June 28, 2016, or abide by the law in this behalf. Address GORDON W. ROTH 547 HEMINGWAY DRIVE HOCKESSIN, DE 19707 Personal Representative GORDON W. ROTH, aka GORDON WAYNE ROTH File #162792 np 1/1,8,15 2599873

LEGAL NOTICE

JANUARY QUARTER 2015/16 SUPPLEMENTAL ASSESSMENTS

The Supplemental Assessment Roll for New Castle County and the City of Wilmington property and school taxes for the January Quarter of the 2015/16 tax year may be inspected in the Office of Property Assessment of New Castle County, New Castle County Government Service Center, 87 Reads Way, Corporate Commons, New Castle, DE, 19720, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

These Supplemental Assessments will become effective January 1, 2016. Forms to appeal these Supplemental Assessments may be obtained from the Office of Property Assessment at the address aforesaid and must be filed with the Office of Property Assessment no later than 4:00 p.m. on January 31, 2016. The Board of Assessment Review of New Castle County will sit in the New Castle County Government Center, or some other public place to be announced, to hear appeals from these Supplemental Assessments. The exact dates and times of such hearings will be provided to the appellants in accordance with 9 Del. C. Sec. 8311.

np 12/25,1/1 2597834

CITY OF NEWARK DELAWARE CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

January 11, 2016 - 7:00 P.M.

Pursuant to Sections 402.2 of the City Charter of the Code of the City of Newark, Delaware, notice is hereby given of a public hearing at a regular meeting of the Council in the Council Chamber at the Municipal Building, 220 South Main Street, Newark, Delaware, on Monday, January 11, 2016 at 7:00 p.m., at which time the Council will consider for Second Reading and Final Passage the following proposed Ordinances:

- Bill 15-32 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 31, Weapons, Code of the City of Newark, Delaware, By Regulating the Possession of Firearms, Ammunition, Components of Firearms and Explosives in Municipal Buildings and Police Stations
- Bill 15-36 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 20, Motor Vehicles, Article XVII, Code of the City of Newark, Delaware, By Requiring Photographs of a Towed Vehicle to be Made Available at the Place and Time of Redemption of the Vehicle
- Bill 15-37 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 22, Police Offenses, Code of the City of Newark, Delaware, By Increasing the Amount of Time Individuals May Claim Found Property from Six Months to One Year
- Bill 15-38 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 10, Elections, Code of the City of Newark, Delaware, by Clarifying the Procedure for Appointment to the Election Board

Renee K. Bensley City Secretary

np 1/1 2598011

SHERIFF'S SALE REAL ESTATE

PUBLIC SALE AT THE CITY/COUNTY BUILDING 800 N.FRENCH STREET,WILMINGTON, DE 19801 WILL BE HELD TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2016 AT 10:00 AM.

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Refuse worker enjoys providing city service

GET TO WORK

By **KARIE SIMMONS**
ksimmons@chespub.com

It was starting to sleet, but Kevin Loller looked in his side-view mirror, pulled over his truck and hopped out anyway. He walked several paces down the street, past houses and cars and two dogs on their leashes, until he reached a grocery store circular that had taken flight out of the back of the truck with the help of a brisk December breeze.

After a brief chase, he grabbed the flier off the pavement and tossed it back in with the other recyclables from the neighborhood.

"I wouldn't leave that behind," he said as he climbed back inside the cab of his truck. "I'm not that guy."

In fact, Loller, 38, of Elkton, Md., isn't even close to being that guy. He's worked for 13 years as a refuse collector for the city of Newark's Public Works Department and although he doesn't live here, he takes a lot of pride in his work. Whether it's bringing handicapped residents' bins down the curb, waving to children on their bikes or making a 10-point turn to avoid hitting a parked car in a tight cul-de-sac, Loller says it's all about providing Newarkers with "the service that they pay for."

Refuse collection has long been one of the city's highest-rated services, but due to Newark's aging fleet of trash trucks, it is also becoming one of the most expensive. In October, council scrapped a controversial plan to outsource the city's refuse collection to a private hauler that would have saved \$4.9 million over the next seven years. However, outsourcing waste hauling would have meant selling the refuse fleet and cutting eight jobs. Residents flooded public meetings to voice opposition to the plan, and the board ultimately opted to keep the service in-house.

Loller is what is known as a "floater," meaning he doesn't have his own trash and recycling route, but instead fills in when other refuse workers call in sick or take vacation. He also steps in to finish the job when it's time for other trucks to drop off their loads.

"I do a little bit of every-

body's route so trucks don't drive too heavy," he said.

The father of three has lived in Elkton his entire life and said he never thought he would be working for the city of Newark, let alone in the Public Works Department.

When he was a student at Elkton High School and the Cecil County School of Technology, he wanted to be an auto mechanic. He worked in a shop shortly after graduation, but said the pay wasn't enough for him to stay, so he took a job loading trucks at a grocery warehouse in North East, Md. It wasn't long before he became dock supervisor, but still, he wanted something different.

One day, Loller's brother-in-law, a backhoe operator in Newark's street department, told him about a job opening in trash collection.

"He said, 'Apply for a job in sanitation and get your foot in the door.' Thirteen years later, and I'm still here," Loller said. "Why would I leave? I love it."

Loller's day starts at 7 a.m. at the maintenance yard on Phillips Avenue. After getting his route assignment, he climbs into his automated side loader, which holds 12,000 lbs of trash and 8,000 lbs of recycling and is considered one of the smaller trucks in the city's fleet, and hits the streets.

He collects the cans by lining up the bin with the robotic claw on the side of his truck. Once in position, he pushes a button and the arm extends, grabbing onto the can. Loller then uses a joystick to lift and tip the trash into the truck's hopper and place the can back onto the ground. Every few houses, he presses a button to compact the trash in the hopper. The waste is crushed by a packer plate that forces the waste through a hole into the main body and towards the rear of the truck.

When Loller first joined the refuse team, the city didn't have automated loaders and he had to collect

the trash by hand, which was messier.

"It was gross," he said. "Especially when it was compacting, it'd splash out onto you sometimes. I don't miss that at all."

The robotic arm makes things much easier, although he still has to get out of the truck every now and then to reposition bins and line them up by hand in tight cul-de-sacs. He also throws in loose boxes and other bags and recyclables placed outside the can that the claw can't grab.

Still, Loller said the hardest part about his job isn't the physical labor – it's maneuvering his massive truck around parked cars, cul-de-sacs, basketball hoops, dogs and pedestrians. It's also his responsibility as a floater to be familiar with all of the city's trash and recycling routes instead of just one. He has to remember which residents are disabled and need their bins brought to the curb, as well as the makeup of each neighborhood and how to collect the refuse efficiently.

He said it's difficult to really get to know the residents as a floater, but he has made some friends over the years, like Mr. Sunny, who he said sometimes comes outside to talk to him while he takes care of his garbage.

"He's a cool guy," Loller said, smiling. "I don't even think that's his real name. That's just what I call him."

Can after can and street after street, Loller's work may seem monotonous to some, but he doesn't mind. He said he enjoys working by himself – automated side loaders only need one operator – and at his own pace, averaging about 125 cans an hour. When he's done, he takes the garbage to Pine Tree Corner Transfer Station in Townsend, where it is then transported to Cherry Island Landfill in Wilmington.

He takes yard waste to a city-maintained location so it can be ground into mulch, and recycling is



Kevin Loller, 38, of Elkton, Md., has been working as a refuse collector for the city of Newark for the past 13 years.

NEWARK POST PHOTO BY KARIE SIMMONS

dropped off at the DSWA Recycling Center in Wilmington to be processed.

"I like being outside," Loller said. "I don't think I could go back to working inside four walls again after being here for so long."

Although it wasn't the career he originally envisioned for himself, Loller has no regrets. He said he genuinely enjoys coming to work every day because of the camaraderie with his coworkers and his pride in helping to keep the city clean.

"There's real fun days here where all you do is laugh and joke," Loller said. "You're not going to get that anywhere else."

"If refuse collection stays in Newark, I'll probably retire here," he added.

This day-in-the-life profile of a refuse worker is the latest installment in the Newark Post's occasional "Get to Work" series, an in-depth look at some of Newark's working men and women. If you know someone who would make a good Get to Work profile, contact reporter Karie Simmons at ksimmons@chespub.com.



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OBITUARY

Ruth Ann Guringo

Ruth Ann Guringo, 76, passed away December 28, 2015. A visitation will be held on Thursday, Dec. 31 at Holy Angels Church, 82 Possum Park Road, Newark, DE 19711, followed by mass at 10 a.m. Burial is private at All Saints Cemetery.

R.T. Foard Funeral Home, P.A.
A Life Celebration * Home

On the Web: www.newarkpostonline.com

This New Year's, make a commitment, not a resolution

Healthy Newark

Nic DeCaire



Is this the time of year you lie to yourself about all the changes you're going to make? You know, resolution time.

You might think I love the New Year. After all, it's when everyone joins a fitness center. Requests for personal training increase. Actually, I may be one of the few in the fitness industry who feels the opposite.

Don't get me wrong — I love the enthusiasm of people striving to live a healthier lifestyle and I love the increase in business.

What I dislike is the lack of commitment. People spend the month before New Year's Day eating and drinking everything in sight, putting off their healthier habits until after the holiday season. Once the calendar changes, they're prepping meals and stuffing new gym clothes in the bag.

Except this happens only for a few weeks until the Superman motivation slowly wears off. By March, they're back to their old ways.

Fitness should not be about resolutions; it should be about commitments. Taking care of your body is not just something you do in the beginning of the year — it is something you do all year.

Let me share some of the advice I've used for more than a decade with my clients:

Use the word "commitment" instead of "resolution." A resolution represents a decision to do or not do something. The problem is, most of us never stick to it. However, a commitment shows dedication to a cause or activity. In this case, it's dedication to yourself, so even if you stray, you can always remind yourself of the commitment you made and come back to it.

Get support. Don't take this journey on your own. It is a challenging road, and you will need people to support you. Only involve people who want to see you succeed.

Use a setback as a learning tool. You are going to stray from exercise

and healthy eating occasionally. What's the cause? Is it stress at work or home? A certain time of year? Learn from it so next time you are ready. Understanding your body and mind will be your biggest asset for success.

Tell everyone. This is one of my favorite tools. By telling people your goals, you are making them real. If they are good friends, they will check in to make sure you are still heading in the right direction.

Take a picture. Put on your bikini or bathing suit and take a picture. If you are not satisfied with the way that picture looks, use it as a reminder every time you go to pick up that bag of Doritos late at night. A picture is worth 1,000 words, and I think commitment is one of them.

Forget about all your past failed resolutions. 2016 is going to be different. This year you have decided to make a commitment to fitness and not a resolution. I wish you the best on your fitness journey. Let's make Newark an even healthier place to live.

Nic DeCaire is the owner of Fusion Fitness Center on Main Street. He writes a monthly column for the Newark Post.

Out of the Past

Editor's note: Volunteers at the Pencader Heritage Museum have been digitizing old Newark City Council meeting minutes. They share excerpts with Newark Post readers in a weekly column.

June-September 1917: Improvement of Delaware Avenue from Academy Street to Depot Road with the "penetrating process" was approved. Continental Fibre requested a reduction in property assessment from \$35,000 to \$7,500, which was denied. Jack Johnson wanted his speeding fine remitted, but no action taken by council.

Driving an automobile was a new experience to most of the population, so rules in plain language were necessary. Among vehicle ordinances passed: All vehicles shall keep as near the right hand curb as practicable, except when passing another.

The committee handling sewer constructing was adamant that orders for equipment needed for a new pumping station on South Chapel Street be placed at once. They hoped to pay for it with money collected on the extension just completed elsewhere. However, council

tabled the request.

St. John's Church complained that Robert Allen was keeping his store open on Sunday and causing a nuisance from the noise therein. Council ordered him to maintain peace on the premises.

Policeman Apsley was granted four days of vacation. A citizen committee was appointed to organize a send-off for Newark's Company E of the National Guard. George Griffin was given permission to move a frame building down Depot Road to Amstel Avenue, providing he guaranteed no damage to road. At request of residents on New London Avenue, an ordinance prohibited children under age 14 from being on streets after 9:30 p.m. The policeman would signal the curfew by four taps on the school bell.

See the original minutes at Pencader Heritage Museum, 2029 Sunset Lake Rd. (Rt. 72 south of Newark.) Regularly open first and third Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Other times by appointment. Contact the website pencaderheritage.org or call 302-737-5792 for an appointment. Family friendly, handicapped accessible and always free.

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