

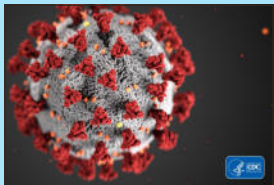
Newark Post

MARCH 20, 2020

GREATER NEWARK'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1910

FREE

CRISIS



Coronavirus pandemic

10 pages of in-depth coverage inside

CITY



Park needs a name

City launches contest to rename Rodney site

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RECREATION



Virtual running challenge

Newark initiative draws participants from 22 states

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POLICE

Newark man charged

Police: Man accidentally fired bullet into neighbor's home

Pg. 16

'These are not normal times'



Virus prompts unprecedented precautions

By JOSH SHANNON

jshannon@chespub.com

What a difference 10 days makes.

Though health experts had spent weeks warning of the potential effects the coronavirus could have across the country, the crisis first hit home March 11 when state officials announced that a University of Delaware professor had tested positive for COVID-19, the disease caused by the virus.

Within hours, UD had suspended classes. In the days that followed, the dramatic changes kept coming.

Public schools are closed for at least two weeks. Restaurants aren't allowed to offer dine-in service. In Newark, gatherings of more than 10 people are banned, and violators can be fined. Public meetings are no longer open to the public, as government business is done by live video stream. Businesses are closing, and employees are working from home in unprecedented numbers.

"As of this week, we live in an entirely different world," Newark Councilman Stu Markham said Monday.

As of Wednesday, Delaware has reported 26 cases of COVID-19, seven of which are tied to UD.

The first four – a UD professor, two graduate students and a post-doctorate



NEWARK POST PHOTOS BY JOSH SHANNON

All around Newark this week, residents attempted to adjust to the drastic measures taken to reduce the spread of the coronavirus. (Top) A customer uses a handwashing station located outside Newark Natural Foods. (Bottom left) A sign at Newark High School announces a two-week closure due to the virus. (Bottom right) A sign at El Diablo reminds customers to practice social distancing.

See **PRECAUTIONS**

Page 10

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Newark council, staff adjust to coronavirus precautions

By JOSH SHANNON

jshannon@chespub.com

With members of the public locked out of city hall and watching a live video stream from home, city council members spread out around council chambers in the name of social distancing.

Some sat at the dais, while two sat at tables set up where the public would normally sit. City Manager Tom Coleman, City Secretary Renee Bensley and Finance Director David Del Grande – the only staff members allowed to attend – also stood the recommended six feet away as council voted on an emergency ordinance to ban gatherings of more than 10 people.

The unusual set-up at Monday's meeting was yet another example of how much has changed in the last week as Newark and the world tries to combat the coronavirus pandemic.

"These are not normal times," Councilman Stu Markham remarked.

A public meeting without the public would typically be a blatant violation of open-meeting laws. However, Gov. John Carney issued a proclamation allowing governments to meet electronically, either by phone or by videoconference, provided that members of the public are able to hear the proceedings and weigh in with their comments.

Newark has live-streamed its meetings for several years and recently upgraded the camera system in council chambers.



SCREENSHOT

City council members appear on a livestream during Monday's meeting, which was closed to the public.

Monday, though, marked the first time the public has not been allowed in the room for the meeting.

Citizens were able to submit written comments to be read into the record.

Technical difficulties delayed the start of the meeting by 20 minutes. However, after the issues were resolved, 200 people tuned in to watch the proceedings – about twice the average viewership of previous meeting live-streams.

Starting this coming Monday, the city will move to a more advanced system in which council members will participate in

the livestream from their own homes. Members of the public will be able to join the stream and address council in real time, Bensley said.

The upcoming meeting will include votes on a proposal to build more apartments on New London Road and a proposal to amend the comprehensive development plan to allow for annexations in the area of Paper Mill and Possum Park roads.

Council debated delaying all but essential business until the pandemic subsides but ultimately decided to proceed as scheduled to avoid a backlog.

"Obviously, it's not perfect,"

Bensley said. "If it were a perfect world, we'd have people in here right now able to give comment."

If technology glitches hamper the public from participating, items will be tabled until a future meeting, Mayor Jerry Clifton said.

Bensley added that people who don't have internet access or aren't comfortable using technology can also mail, fax or drop off written comments. Recordings of the meetings will be shown on Channel 22, the city's public access television channel.

The changes at council meetings are not the only effect the

pandemic has had on city operations.

City hall is closed to the public, and residents are encouraged to pay bills and handle other business online or by phone. Many employees are working from home, while others are alternating days in the office to avoid having too many people in city hall at one time.

Other changes include:

- Trash, recycling and dumpsters will be picked up on their normal schedule. However, all trash should be inside the cart with the lid closed. Loose trash and bags placed on the curb will not be collected. Please take care to ensure that carts are placed in a manner that can easily be collected by the automated arms on our refuse trucks with at least three feet between carts.

- Green Wednesdays yard waste collection is suspended until April 3.

- Bulk collections are suspended until April 3.

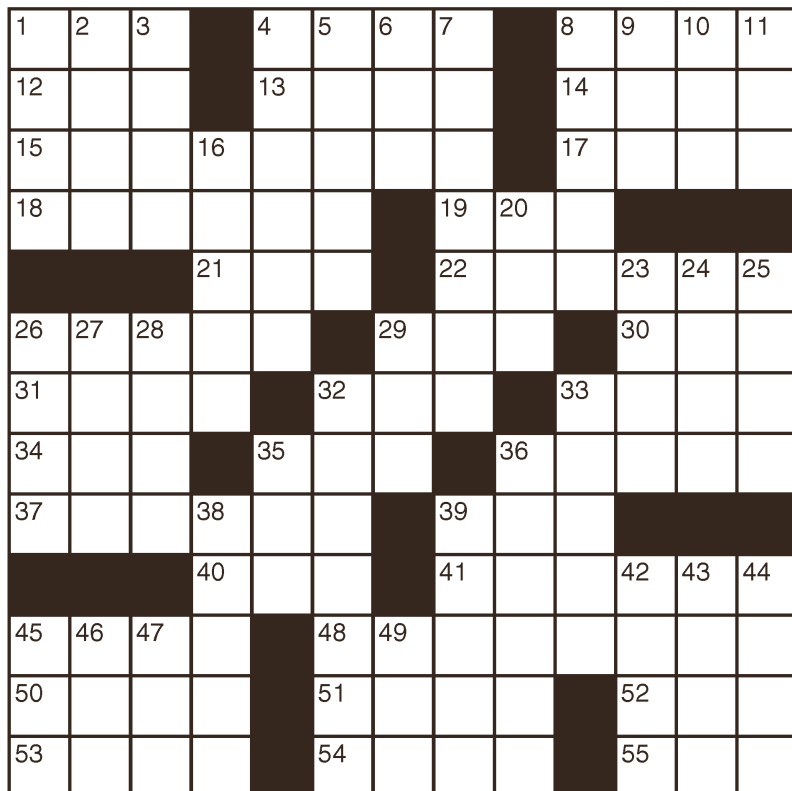
- Alderman's Court is not in session. If you are scheduled to appear before March 27, please call 302-366-7000 for a new date.

- All public meetings and workshops, except city council and planning commission, have been canceled through the end of April.

- Walk-in services are currently suspended and will remain suspended until officials are able to provide them while maintaining safety for visitors and staff members. Residents are encouraged to pay bills online at newarkde.gov/payments and by phone at 302-366-7000.

The Post Stumper

ANSWERS ON PAGE 5



ACROSS

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- 8 Bigwigs
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- 13 Ship wood
- 14 Experts
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- 49 Praise in verse



NEWARK POST PHOTO BY JOSH SHANNON

Though the University of Delaware has suspended classes and is closing the dorms, a few students were still walking around on The Green on Sunday.

UD closes dorms, extends spring break

By JOSH SHANNON

jshannon@chespub.com

The University of Delaware on Sunday announced even stricter restrictions following the news that a seventh person connected to the university tested positive for COVID-19, the disease caused by the coronavirus.

UD is locking down buildings and restricting research to only essential functions, such as maintaining animals and critical cell cultures. The university is also asking all employees to work from home, except for employees performing essential functions that cannot be carried out remotely.

“As the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic situation continues to rapidly evolve with the escalation of positive cases on a national level – and even here in the state of Delaware – we feel that the University of Delaware needs to accelerate all measures of preparation even further to protect the health and safety of our community,” UD President Dennis Assanis wrote in a letter to students.

UD is also extending spring break for an additional week, through March 29. When spring break is over, classes will be online-only, as previously announced.

“There are several hurdles

to overcome in this process related to IT resources, technology access and other preparation for virtual instruction,” Assanis said. “We appreciate everyone’s patience and understanding as we work through this transition process.”

Dorms closed on Tuesday, though students who are already home have until the end of the semester to pack up their rooms.

Students will receive a prorated discount for housing and dining fees. Those who can’t return home due to international travel restrictions or other “serious personal reasons” will receive special accommodations.

“This is an unprecedented time of uncertainty not only for our colleges and universities, but also for our entire world,” Assanis said. “When faced with extraordinary circumstances such as this, we need to come together to work out solutions that are in the best interest of our students, faculty, and staff. In the end, we are all motivated by the same desire to teach, learn and grow while also protecting the health of our friends, neighbors and colleagues.”

Other new measures announced Sunday include enhanced cleaning in UD buildings and a ban on all UD-affiliated travel.

Newarkers urged to vote absentee in council election

By JOSH SHANNON

jshannon@chespub.com

With Newark’s April 14 municipal election less than a month away, officials are strongly encouraging residents to vote via absentee ballots to avoid the potential spread of the coronavirus.

City officials are taking the unusual step of proactively mailing absentee ballot affidavits to every registered voter in the two contested districts – a total of approximately 6,000 people.

Those who wish to vote absentee should fill out the affidavit and mail it to: City Secretary’s Office, City of Newark, 220 South Main Street, Newark, DE 19711. Affidavits must be received by April 3 in order to guarantee getting an absentee ballot in time.

Election officials will then send the voter a ballot, which must be returned by 5 p.m. April 14. Ballots can be mailed or dropped in the payment box in the lobby of city hall.

Polling places will still be open, though election officials prefer residents vote absentee, City Secretary Renee Bensley said. Voting machines will be sanitized between each voter, she added.

“We’re taking very seriously the safety of our voters and our workers that day,” Bensley said.

Elections are only being held in District 3 and District 5.

In District 3, newcomers Jay Bancroft and Anthony Sinibaldi are vying for the seat that will be vacated by incumbent Jen Wallace, who is not seeking a third term. District 3 covers the southwest part of Newark and includes Devon, Binns, Arbour Park, Barksdale Estates, College Park, Newark Preserve, Abbotsford, Twin Lakes and surrounding neighborhoods.

In District 5, newcomer Brian K. Anderson is challenging incumbent Jason Lawhorn, who is seeking a second term. District 5 is located in the northwest part of the city and includes Christianstead, West Branch, Fairfield, Fairfield Crest, Terry Manor, most of New London Road and surrounding areas.

Meanwhile, newcomer Travis McDermott is unopposed for the District 6 seat and will be declared the winner. He will replace Stu Markham, who is retiring after 14 years on council.

District 3 voters will cast their ballots at Aetna Hose, Hook and Ladder Fire Station #7, located at 7 Thorn Lane. District 5 residents will vote at First Presbyterian Church, located at 292 W. Main Street.

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Obituaries: Tuesday, noon

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The Newark Post welcomes letters to the editor from our readers. Letters must include the writer’s name, address and telephone number.

The phone number will not be published; it is for verification purposes only. We reserve the right to edit or reject all letters and each submission has a 400-word limit. The opinions expressed in letters and submissions are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Newark Post. All rights reserved. Please email letters to letters@newarkpostonline.com with “Letter to the Editor” in the subject line. Letters may also be mailed, faxed, or dropped off in person at our office (see below for details).

All other submissions

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Carney orders all Delaware public schools to close

By JOSH SHANNON

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Gov. John Carney last week ordered all public schools in Delaware to close for two weeks amid growing concerns about the coronavirus.

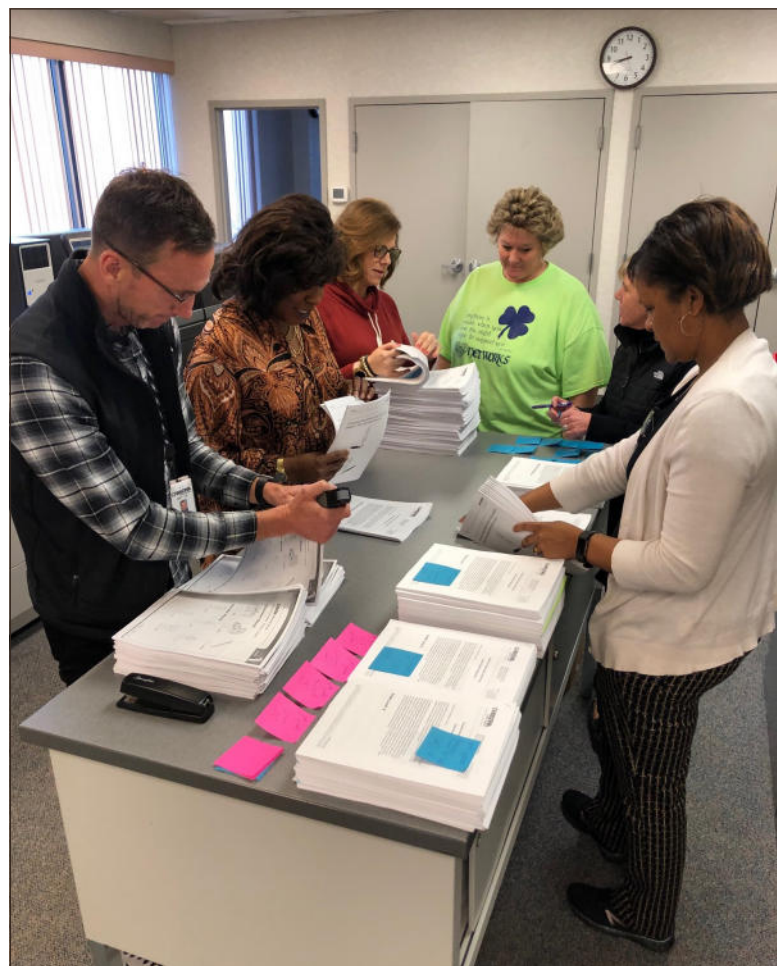
During the closure, which started Monday and runs through March 27, schools will undergo a deep cleaning, and officials will prepare for future impacts, including "the potential impact of extended school closures," Carney said in a prepared statement March 13.

"Delaware children deserve a world-class education, and ongoing access to services that are delivered in our schools each day," Carney said. "Many students – especially those from disadvantaged communities – also rely on school meals for nutrition, and other important social services. We will be working with districts to plan for providing learning opportunities and other meal and social services for our students in the event of an extended closure."

The Christina School District set up meal distribution sites at Kirk Middle, Shue-Medill Middle and Leasure Elementary near Newark, as well as Bancroft and Bayard in Wilmington. Meals can be picked up at the main entrance to the schools from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Meanwhile, Christina will provide "academic work packets" for students, Superintendent Richard Gregg said. The packets, which won't count as graded work, will be available online and can be picked up at meal distribution sites.

Gregg said it is not yet clear if



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Christina School District officials assemble academic work packets to distribute to students for the two weeks schools are closed.

schools will have to remain closed longer than the initial two-week closure ordered by Carney.

"There is always that possibility," Gregg said. "However, our hope is that this shutdown will help slow the spread of the disease and allow

us to get back to normal operations."

The school board is considering modifying spring break dates to make up for the missed days, but no decision has been made. Gregg said it is too soon to know when,

or if, high school graduations will take place.

"Our goal is to do whatever we can to prevent the spread of the virus and make sure we get back to business as usual as quickly as possible – while keeping our community safe and healthy," Gregg said. "Let's all be supportive of one another in this unique time of need."

Two Newark schools – Newark Charter School and the Newark Center for Creative Learning – decided to close even before the governor's decision.

NCCL closed beginning March 13 after a member of the school community was exposed to coronavirus.

"We are complying with our Preparedness Plan for the protection and safety of the school and greater community," the school said in a statement. "Classes are continuing via online learning options. We will continue to evaluate the situation and make decisions as new information is presented."

The school plans to reopen March 30 unless the situation changes.

Meanwhile, Newark Charter will remain closed for at least two weeks, Director Frank Newton wrote in a letter to parents.

"We hope that this decision will relieve stress on and safeguard our students, families and staff, expected stress on our medical resources and local hospitals, and protect the greater Newark community by slowing the spread of this virus," Newton said.

No instruction or activities will take place during the closure.

"We will continue to monitor the situation and reassess over the

next few weeks to observe and respond to the shifting landscape and watch how conditions change with the hope of re-opening," Newton said. "Should conditions improve to the level when school is able to open and resume, we will do so. Should conditions be such that reopening school is not prudent, we will inform you of that also and what the hybrid plan may be as we continue."

He encouraged students and parents to stay home and minimize contact with others.

"You should make choices that minimize interaction in the community to limit the virus's ability to spread," he said. "It will be ineffective as a strategy to close schools if people do not make the decision to self-sequester."

Newark Charter indefinitely suspended spring sports, including games and practices. The school also canceled a number of events, including a field trip to New York City and a spring break trip to Costa Rica.

Post Stumper solved

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Delaware suspends all jury trials amid coronavirus fears

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

All civil and criminal jury trials in Delaware have been suspended until April 15 under an order aimed at protecting jurors, lawyers, judges and court staff from coronavirus.

The order was issued Sunday by Judge Jan Jurden, president judge of Superior Court in Delaware.

It says anyone who has been summoned for jury duty is excused and should not report to court. The grand jury and other court proceedings that involve smaller groups of people will continue.

Status hearings in specialty courts will also be postponed. Those include veteran's court, mental health

court, drug court and reentry court.

Under the order, probation violation hearings for non-incarcerated offenders will also be postponed. Probation hearings for incarcerated offenders will be heard at the discretion of the judicial officer.

For most people, the new coronavirus causes only

mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia.

The vast majority of people recover from the virus.

The outbreak has caused more than 5,800 deaths out of 156,000 cases worldwide.

Delaware panel lowers revenue estimates amid virus spread

By RANDALL CHASE

Associated Press

A state panel has lowered Delaware's official government revenue estimates as the coronavirus scare continues to wreak havoc with the national and state economies.

The Delaware Economic and Financial Advisory Council on Monday lowered its revenue estimate for this

year by slightly more than \$1 million compared to December's estimate. The estimate for the fiscal year starting July 1 fell by more than \$94 million.

The downward revisions were largely due to significant declines in estimates for personal income taxes and corporate income taxes. Estimates for the gross receipts tax on businesses also fell.

Officials indicated the revenue forecast picture, particularly for next year, likely will get worse before it gets better, given that some economists are predicting a recession and saying the outlook is "extremely uncertain."

"There is no escaping for Delaware from what's happening with the national economy," said David Roose, director of research and tax policy for the state Department of Finance.

ment of Finance.

Even with Monday's revisions, the revenue estimate for this year is still about \$129 million higher than it was when lawmakers passed this year's budget last June. The revenue estimate for next fiscal year is up \$38 million over the same period.

"But obviously there are a substantial number of risks to the forecast," Roose said.



NEWARK POST FILE PHOTO

A dispatcher works in Newark's 911 center in this file photo. Dispatchers have been instructed to ask callers if they have been exposed to the coronavirus.

Newark Police taking minor crime reports by phone to avoid coronavirus

By JOSH SHANNON

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The Newark Police Department has begun taking minor crime reports via phone in an attempt to avoid the spread of the coronavirus.

Lt. Andrew Rubin, an NPD spokesman, said the change only applies to certain calls that are not in-progress, such as minor thefts and fraud.

In addition, dispatchers in Newark's 911 center have been instructed to ask callers about their potential exposure to the virus and whether they are experiencing any symptoms.

"These measures are being undertaken to minimize the risk of exposure of our personnel to the virus," Rubin said, emphasizing that police are still providing all their normal services to the public.

The department also canceled its daily roll call meetings to avoid officers congregating in the police station. Officers will report directly to their vehicles, which have all been equipped with personal protection equipment, such as face masks and gowns.

NPD has also canceled all non-mandatory training and all travel through the end of April.

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Comparing coronavirus and the flu

COVID-19



Caused by one virus now called severe acute respiratory syndrome or SARS-CoV-2.

INFLUENZA



Caused by any of several different types and strains of influenza viruses.



Both can be spread from people through droplets in the air from coughing, sneezing or talking. One possible difference: COVID-19 might be spread through the airborne route – tiny droplets remaining in the air can spread the disease even after the ill person is no longer near.

COVID-19 + VACCINE + INFLUENZA

No vaccine is available at this time, though trials are in progress.

A vaccine is available to prevent dangerous types or reduce severity.

INFECTIONS

As of March 18, 2020

In U.S.	Worldwide
7,323	214,010

Per year

In U.S.	Worldwide
Up to 45 million	Up to 1 billion

DEATHS

In U.S.	Worldwide
115	8,727

In U.S.	Worldwide
Up to 61,000	Up to 646,000

Source: Johns Hopkins; Graphic: Phil Holm



Newark Senior Center is closed, but Meals on Wheels delivery continues

By JOSH SHANNON

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The Newark Senior Center is closed until further notice due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The closure took effect Tuesday as the number of Delaware cases grew.

"It's best everyone does stay home," Executive Director Carla Grygiel said.

However, the senior center is continuing to run its Meals on Wheels program, which delivers meals to homebound seniors. Grygiel is asking volunteers to practice social distancing by placing meals outside a senior's door or asking the senior to back up and placing the meal inside.

"As volunteers, we don't want to be bringing some-

thing into their homes unknowingly," she said.

She said people from the community have already stepped up to help supplement existing Meals on Wheels volunteers.

She encouraged anyone who needs help or wants to volunteer to contact the United Way's helpline by dialing 211 or visiting www.delaware211.org.

County shuts down libraries due to coronavirus

By JOSH SHANNON

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All New Castle County libraries – including the Newark Free Library – are closed due to coronavirus concerns.

County Executive Matt Meyer announced the decision last week, and it took effect Monday.

"Our goal with these actions is to do our part to help reduce any potential spread of COVID-19 to those residents who live and work in our county and across the region," Meyer said.

The county will also close PAL Centers and community centers and suspend programming at parks.

However, county parks will remain open so residents can continue to enjoy outdoor recreation.

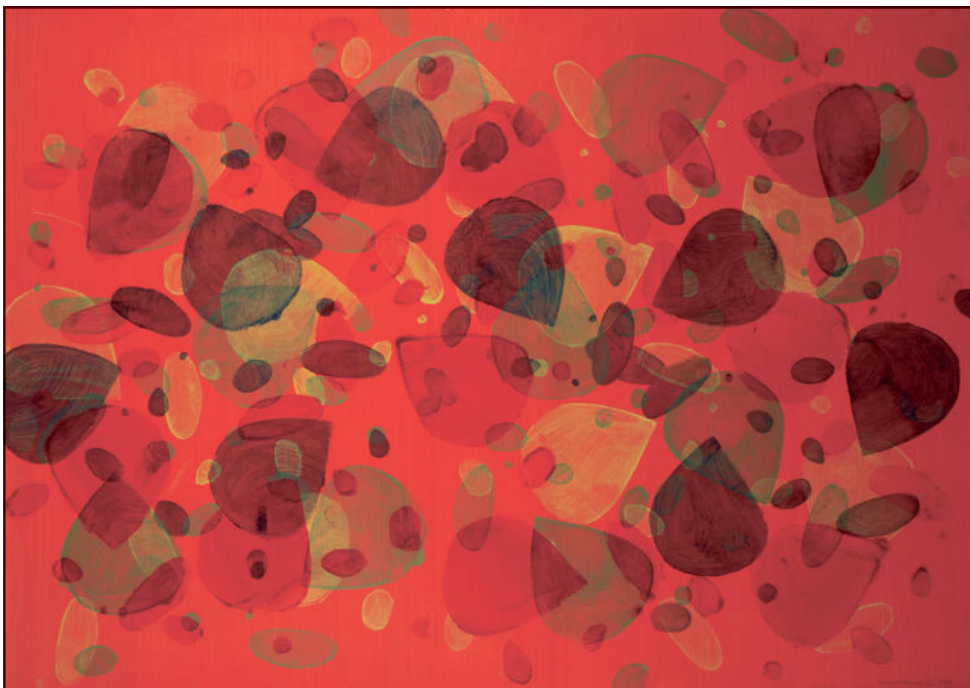
"There is evidence that shows exercising and working out does increase your immunity, so we encourage people not to just stay inside all the time," Meyer said.

The county is also deep-cleaning all of its buildings and providing police and paramedics with personal protection gear.

"We hope there will be no more than four presumptive positive cases in New Castle County. Hope, of course, is not a strategy," Meyer said. "If the number of positive cases increases dramatically, one of our greatest concerns is to keep our public safety services fully operational."

He encouraged residents to take precautions, such as washing their hands and avoiding crowds.

"The future of this crisis depends on all of us, the personal decisions we make to keep ourselves and our community safe," he said.



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Layered Abstraction: Margo Allman & Helen Mason was organized by the Delaware Art Museum. This exhibition is made possible by the Emily du Pont Memorial Exhibition Fund. Additional support is provided, in part, by a grant from the Delaware Division of the Arts, a state agency, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts. The Division promotes Delaware arts events on www.DelawareScene.com. Top to bottom: *Universal Possibilities*, 1980. Margo Allman. Acrylic on paper, sheet: 27 x 39 1/4 inches. Courtesy of the artist. © Margo Allman. | *High Speed*, 2012. Helen Mason. Rubber and wood, 21 x 52 x 6 inches. Courtesy of the artist. © Helen Mason.



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NEWARK POST FILE PHOTO

Newark Natural Foods alerted customers Wednesday that someone who tested positive for coronavirus was in the store two days last week.

Newark Natural Foods temporarily closes due to coronavirus case

By JOSH SHANNON

jshannon@chespub.com

Newark Natural Foods alerted customers Wednesday that someone who tested positive for coronavirus was in the store two days last week.

The person, who officials said is not a staff member, was at the store from approximately 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 9 and from noon to 2 p.m. March 12.

"The capacity of the individual's visit makes it unlikely that they were in close contact as defined by the CDC with any of our customers," store

officials said in a statement, without elaborating.

The store in Newark Shopping Center learned of the positive test Tuesday evening and closed down for two days while a commercial cleaning company disinfects the entire store. Officials plan to reopen Friday.

Prior to the temporary closure, the store suspended dine-in service in its café, closed down the salad bar and hot bar and canceled events in its community room. It also installed a hand-washing station just outside the main entrance.

Newark Manor restricts visitors, implements staff screening

By SEAN GROGAN

sgrogan@chespub.com

In compliance with the Department of Health and Social Services recommendation that nursing homes, long-term care facilities and adult day-care centers restrict all visitors, Newark Manor Nursing Home has closed its doors to guests.

Other precautionary measures include screening residents and staff for symptoms associated with COVID-19, as well as taking their temperatures.

"We are screening our residents daily for all symptoms and our staff, at the beginning of each shift, with both a question of symptoms as well as temperature taking," Newark Manor administrator David Boyer said. "We've also increased our emphasis on infection control for wiping down commonly used surfaces."

The CDC's updated recommendations suggest nursing homes also restrict all volunteers and non-essential personnel and cancel group activities and social dining.

Boyer called all of Newark Manor's staff essential at this time.

"In lieu of residents not being able to have their family members visit them, it is our activity staff who is able to allow them their emotional support needs," he said. "Even though they don't provide resident care, we consider their emotional needs to be very important as well. If their family members aren't able to visit, these staff members, to a lot of them, are their families."

Newark Manor has brought in a pair



GOOGLE MAPS

Newark Manor Nursing Home has instituted precautions due to the coronavirus pandemic.

of iPads that residents can use to FaceTime with family members while they are restricted from visiting in person.

"We're following the current guidance of 10 people," Boyer said regarding group activities. "A lot of people in their rooms eating instead of the dining rooms, or staggering dining times more than we were under normal conditions."

The CDC says nursing home populations – older adults and those with underlying chronic medical conditions – are at the highest risk of suffering serious illness from coronavirus.

Severe COVID-19 outbreaks have

occurred at nursing homes in other states. The first major outbreak in the United States came at a nursing home in Washington state, which is linked to 30 deaths. Chateau Nursing and Rehabilitation Center outside of Chicago had 42 cases of the virus.

Though there have been no cases there, Boyer said Newark Manor has cleared out one resident room for isolation in case of the result of a presumptive positive.

Officials at Millcroft and Paramount Senior Living at Newark did not return calls.



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Delaware legislative session postponed amid virus outbreak

By RANDALL CHASE
Associated Press

Delaware's legislature is shut down until further notice future because of the new coronavirus outbreak, but the state's restaurant industry is toasting the governor's modification to restrictions on operations.

Democratic leaders of the House and Senate said Wednesday that the legislative session is indefinitely postponed as officials continue to assess the extent of Delaware's exposure to the global pandemic.

House Speaker Pete Schwartzkopf and Senate President Sen. David McBride also said they are making plans in the event lawmakers must reconvene to pass legislation to address the effects of the virus. Plans are also being discussed regarding the legislature's constitutional obligation to pass an operating budget by June 30.

Delaware's Supreme Court announced Wednesday that it was canceling all oral arguments that had been scheduled through the end of May.

Meanwhile, Gov. John Carney issued a sec-

ond modification to his emergency declaration of last week to allow alcohol sales as part of restaurant takeout and drive-thru services, while prohibiting delivery sales of alcohol. On Monday, the administration suspended all on-premise alcohol sales as it restricted restaurant operations to take-out, drive-thru and delivery.

"It was kind of a kick in the gut to my guys," said Delaware Restaurant Association President Carrie Leishman, noting that alcohol sales are a key profit driver for the industry.

After two conference calls with restaurant industry officials Tuesday, Carney eased the ban on alcohol sales on Wednesday. The modification allows any restaurant, brewpub, tavern or taproom with a valid on-premise license to sell alcoholic beverages as part of takeout, delivery or drive-thru food service. Alcohol sales cannot exceed 40 percent of the total sales transaction, and alcoholic beverages cannot be consumed on-site, either indoors or outdoors.

"It's a really good thing," Leishman said. "We are desperate for anything that will help

the restaurants to stay alive."

At the same time, Wednesday's revision to the emergency declaration also requires the closure of bowling alleys, movie theaters, fitness centers and health spas, effective Thursday morning. Casinos were ordered closed earlier this week, and public gatherings of 50 or more people are banned for at least eight weeks.

"We know our small business and restaurant communities are among those most seriously impacted by the restrictions put in place to limit the spread of the coronavirus, and we're looking at ways to assist them," Carney said in a statement. "But our priority is the health and safety of Delawareans, and limiting the number of Delawareans who come in contact with this virus."

Meanwhile, the number of virus cases in Delaware rose to 26 on Wednesday, more than triple the number of cases at the start of the week. Three people are hospitalized, and one is critically ill.

In an effort to provide relief to businesses affected by government restrictions imposed because of the virus, Carney announced a loan program for restaurants, bars and other

hospitality industry businesses. The no-interest loans are capped at \$10,000 per business per month. The money can be used to pay rent, utilities and other unavoidable bills but cannot be used for personnel costs. The loans have a 10-year term, with payments deferred for nine months.

Eligible businesses must have been in operation for at least a year, have annual revenue below \$1.5 million and be in designated hospitality-connected industries.

State officials also have eased rules for unemployment benefits in an effort to help the hospitality industry. The changes include allowing part-time income while collecting benefits as long as employees can demonstrate their decreased hours and earnings, and not classifying tipped employees as minimum-wage earners as long as their tips are reported as wages.

For most people, the virus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia. The vast majority of victims recover.

PRECAUTIONS

From
Page 1

researcher — contracted the illness at a social gathering in Princeton, N.J. Two other cases, a professor and his wife, were linked to the earlier cases. The seventh case is a woman who is connected to UD and is also a staff member of Sen. Tom Carper, though it's not clear how she contracted the illness.

Several other cases were people who were tested at ChristianaCare Health System's drive-thru testing event in Wilmington on March 13, when 536 people were tested.

Symptoms of COVID-19 are most similar to lower respiratory infections with patients having fever, cough, and shortness of breath. There is no specific antiviral treatment recommended for COVID-19 infection at this time. While in some cases illnesses can be severe and require hospitalization, many individuals infected with COVID-19 recover by resting, drinking plenty of liquids and taking pain, and fever-reducing medications.

Testing for coronavirus disease is not recommended for individuals who do not have any symptoms of illness. For individuals who have symptoms of illness (fever, cough, or shortness of breath), they should contact their primary care provider, who can collect specimens and send them to either the Delaware Public Health Lab or LabCorp for testing. Medical providers should evaluate patients and rule out other causes of illness first before recommending testing for COVID-19.

While testing for the disease at the Public Health Lab requires DPH approval, providers do not need DPH approval to submit



A sign at HoneyGrow explains that the restaurant is closed.

NEWARK POST PHOTO BY JOSH SHANNON

test samples to LabCorp. With the addition of commercial lab testing now available, Delaware has enough capacity to accommodate its current testing needs. Providers can use flu kits to collect a nasal swab for testing. Commercial labs are required to report testing and results to DPH.

DPH advises older Delawareans and people with severe chronic health conditions to follow guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention (CDC) encouraging them to "avoid crowds as much as possible" to reduce their risk of contracting coronavirus disease.

If you are in the higher-risk groups for getting very sick from COVID-19, the CDC recommends you should:

- Avoid non-essential travel such as long plane trips and defer all cruise trips worldwide.
- Avoid crowds, especially in poorly ventilated space, as much as possible.

- When you go out in public, including to doctor appointments or dialysis, keep away from others who are sick, limit close contact and wash your hands often.

- Take everyday precaution to keep space between yourself and others.

- If an outbreak does occur, stay home as much as possible.
- Stock up on supplies, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, food and water, and other household items.
- Have a plan in the event you

get sick, including discussing with household members, other relatives, and friends what you might need.

The public can call the Division of Public Health's Coronavirus Call Center at 1-866-408-1899, or 711 for those with hearing impairments, from 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Or they can email DPHCall@delaware.gov. For the latest on Delaware's response, go to de.gov/coronavirus.



Find ways to support Newark businesses during coronavirus

By NIC DECAIRE

Even though I no longer own a brick-and-mortar business in Newark, I still choose to drink my coffee, have business lunches and host the majority of my road races here.

I do this for a couple of reasons. I have become friends with many small business owners and employees in Newark, and I like working with friends.

I also love this town. It has become home to me over the years, and I want to support the businesses that keep Newark thriving.

Earlier in the year, Newark businesses took a big hit. Construction on Main Street has kept some people away from shopping and eating downtown. After a mild winter and summer around the corner, these same business owners could see the finish line. With construction nearing the end, most thought the town soon would be back to its bustling self.

The coronavirus pandemic has changed all that. I cannot

Nic DeCaire



imagine the ripple effect this is going to cause our city, let alone the nation.

While we stay home and isolate to keep the virus from spreading in our community, it's a good time to re-evaluate our lives and think about how we do business, both professionally and personally.

Newark is a thriving community. Over the years, I have seen amazing things happen when our city gets together and works as a family. From my personal experience, I've seen residents rally to raise money for the Newark Police K-9 unit, Preston's Playground, Move 2 Include adaptive race chairs and the Newark PAL.

I have no doubt that Newark will bounce back from this temporary closure and be stronger than ever. But in the

meantime, I think we can all do our part to support the people who support this community. It means we have to think outside the box on how we can support them.

Here are just a few ways:

Coffee drinkers: You can stop by Drip Café or Little Goat and pick up a bag of coffee beans or grind to make their delicious coffee at home.

Lunch/Dinner: Almost all of the local restaurants offer a take-out option. So you can still get those delicious nachos from Kate's, burgers from Deer Park, or pizza from Grotto's to enjoy in the comfort of your home. While these are staples in this town, do not forget the smaller shops like Long Play Cafe or Bing's Bakery. There are so many choices in Newark when it comes to foods and treats.

Drinks: Become a beer connoisseur during this time and fill up a growler from Iron Hill or the Delaware Growler.

Arts/Crafts: Stop by the National 5 & 10 and pick up some art supplies. They have a huge



NEWARK POST PHOTO BY JOSH SHANNON
Sidewalk sign promotes take-out options at Pachamama on Main Street.

selection of items to keep your kids busy over the next week or so.

While there are too many Newark spots to list, remember that small businesses and their staff need us in a time like this. Already, it's hard to imagine how the dine-in restaurant

restrictions mandated by Gov. John Carney will impact the service industry.

Our friends and family who normally rely on tips as part of their pay now have no income for the foreseeable weeks. My friend, Robbie Jester, reminded me of the sacrifices the service industry makes all the time, working on weekends, holidays and late nights. Now, they are home with the rest of us.

"These are my people who bring so much joy to others and smile through the pain," said Jester, executive chef with High 5 Hospitality.

From school closings to employees working remotely, business as usual has changed. Fusion Racing has had to cancel or postpone around 15 races, and potentially more. This is close to 4,000 people who have already paid for an event that is either not happening anymore or must be rescheduled.

While I was devastated by this, it made me change the way I was thinking. We have

created a virtual running/walking challenge. This challenge not only will help our bottom line in a time like this, but will provide motivation and an outlet for people.

During these times, even if you do not have the resources to help out these small businesses financially, send them a note. Tell them you are thinking of them and you look forward to helping them out once this passes. Repost something for them on social media to let them know you care.

We should continue to do what we can – even while distancing – to support the heartbeat of our beloved community. Eventually, we will be back together, and that's when we can make good on the request from Jester, Newark's own celebrity chef.

"As soon as we all get through it, please for the love of God have a beer at your local spot," he said. "They need it more than ever."

Nic DeCaire previously owned Fusion Fitness and now runs Fusion Racing.

Another lesson learned from (a lack of) sports

By JON BUZBY

JonBuzby@hotmail.com

If you read this section of our paper with any regularity, you're a sports fan to some extent.

It might be as an avid fan, coach or player, or a parent who feels like they've watched more youth sports practices and games than they ever dreamed possible.

Regardless of your role, by now you are probably experiencing the same emotions as I am. What started out as sort of a "well this will be interesting" feeling of not having any live sports to watch either in person or on TV, has turned into an "I don't like this at all" sort of mood.

Don't get me wrong, I strongly feel every decision that has been made to suspend, postpone or cancel sports at all different levels has been the correct ones. After all, this is a pandemic, whereas sports is just ... well – sports.

As much as I enjoyed watching the Sixers beat the Celtics on Monday night, I've never been a fan of watching games of which I know the outcomes. The basketball games my boys are playing with friends in the driveway just don't compare to the local leagues and tournaments. And while the hiatus from youth sports was very much welcome for a family that rarely has a day off from them, we have to admit we now miss them after two weeks of them being shut down.

Jon Buzby



At first, this hiatus from normalcy reminded me of a snow day in the middle of the week. But with my unused snow shovel back in storage over the garage, the reality has set in that the major difference between a blizzard state of emergency and this current unprecedented one is that we don't know when the latter will end. It feels sort of like a fog has set in.

Right now, even though the local colleges and universities have canceled their spring sports seasons, we still have a sliver of hope that the spring high school seasons will take place and our younger kids will play in their respective youth sports leagues, even if with adjusted schedules. But nobody can promise either right now, and if I was a betting man, my money would lean toward the unfortunate case of everything being canceled.

My selfish disappointment in not being able to follow March Madness or take my son to the Sixers game as planned for his birthday has been replaced by the reality that the only competitive games my boys might play in the near future will take place in my driveway and backyard.

Last Saturday at our house, after taking a bike ride around Lums

Pond with one son, I watched the other host a pickup hoops game in the driveway. A handful of adults – fewer than the recommended max of 50 at the time – then gathered at a neighbor's house in the evening while our boys and their friends played a variety of sports in the yard before wrapping up the night with a few rounds of manhunt. Other than not having to travel to any youth games, it felt like just another weekend in our neighborhood.

The lack of organized sports to watch in any way at any level right now perhaps has taught all of us a lesson that is often mentioned but really never been forced on us: There is more to life than sports.

As much as sports can consume us, unlike food, shelter and clothing, we really can survive without them. And in some cases – picture your entire family at the dinner table two nights in a row or huddled around a jigsaw puzzle or board game – we have to admit that in many ways our families are flourishing in the absence of sports.

There might not be a traditional March Madness "One Shining Moment" this year, but let's all hope and pray that there will be a much more important one as it relates to the coronavirus. The moment when this pandemic situation ends and our lives go back to whatever we each define as normal will truly be this year's shiniest moment. Until then, sports can wait.

Stay safe and be well.

Obituary

Kathleen Linden Kennard "Kathy"

KLK, yet another transplant to enrich the Longwood community, passed on February 24th, 2020 in the dear company of her daughters Cindy and Julie and granddaughter Jessica; strong women all.

Kathy was blessed with a twin brother James when they were born December 14, 1942 in Detroit, MI. Theirs was a lifelong affinity and a bond severed only when Jimmy passed away in 2015. The Lindens (Cynthia and Carlyle) made their home in Newark, DE, and Kathy's school years there ended with her graduation from Newark High School with the class of 1960, where she made and maintained many lifelong friendships. Kathy continued her education at Lesley College in Cambridge, MA and Katherine Gibbs School in New York City.

Kathy and Edward Thornley welcomed their daughter Cynthia in 1966, and they remained friends while raising Cindy following the end of their marriage.

Kathy and DeForest Kennard, of nearby Elkton, MD, met, fell in love, and married in September of 1973. Their life journey began in Pennsylvania where their daughter Julie was born in 1975, prospered in Rhode Island and eventually brought them to Longwood in 1983. There is no official count of the well-reviewed restaurants they frequented along the East Coast.

In 1977, Kathy received her real estate license and was active in the industry in Rhode Island, Pennsylvania and Florida until 2010.

Her true profession was as Nana to the extended and well-blended Kennard clan. Four daughters provided a crew of seven grandchildren with Jessica serving the last 20+ years as confidante, companion, pupil and best pal. Theirs was a very special bond.

Kathy is survived by her loving husband and partner of 47 years, DeForest of Longwood, daughters Cynthia Seeley of Stuart, FL and Julie Kennard Smith (Donald) of Winter Park. Her step-daughters Deborah Kennard Hutchison (Robert) of Doylestown, PA and Jill Kennard Persick (Lawrence) of West Chester, PA survive her as well as her grandchildren: Jessica Seeley (Kristy), Linden Smith, Tallulah Smith and step-grandchildren Leigh Hutchison, Robert Hutchison, Matthew Persick and Anna Persick.

A celebration of Kathy's life will be held at Sweetwater Episcopal Church, 251 East Lake Brantley Drive in Longwood at 11 am on Saturday, April 18th, 2020. A reception will follow the service. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions be made to One Heart for Women and Children in Orlando (oneheartforwomenandchildren.org).



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KATHLEEN KENNARD

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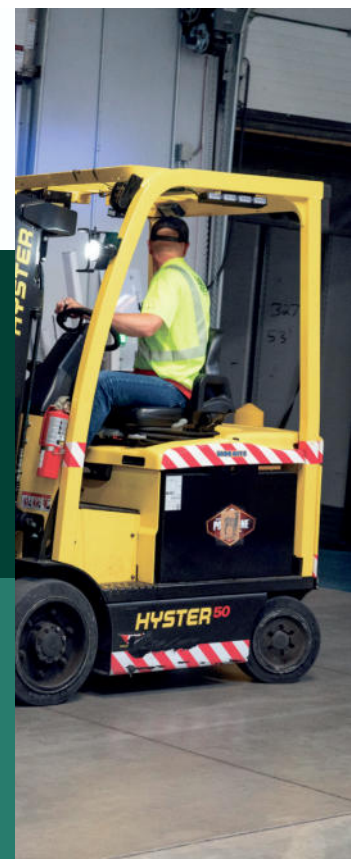
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Note: Additional experience in a responsible management position or in the valuation of real property may be substituted on a year-for-year basis for the required education. The successful candidate must be able to demonstrate managerial capabilities and skills and possess a knowledge and working experience in real estate assessment or appraisal. The individual selected must also show a clear dedication to serving the public. Residency within the County is required but may be waived by the County Council.

Please submit a letter of interest, resume and references to applications@talbotcountymd.gov or mail to:
Administrative Services, Talbot County Courthouse, 11 N. Washington Street, Easton, MD 21601. For best consideration, all materials must be received by Tuesday, April 7, 2020.
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CITY OF NEWARK, DELAWARE

NOTICE OF REGULAR ELECTION TO BE HELD ON
TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2020 BETWEEN THE HOURS OF
7:00 A.M. AND 8:00 P.M.
TO ELECT COUNCIL MEMBERS IN DISTRICTS 3 AND 5

POLLING PLACES

DISTRICT 3 – AETNA FIRE STATION #7, 7 THORN LANE
DISTRICT 5 – FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MEMORIAL
HALL, 292 WEST MAIN STREET

CANDIDATES ON THE BALLOT FOR DISTRICT 3 COUNCIL
MEMBER ARE:
JAY BANCROFT
ANTHONY SINIBALDI

CANDIDATES ON THE BALLOT FOR DISTRICT 5 COUNCIL
MEMBER ARE:
BRIAN K. ANDERSON
JASON LAWHORN

ALL INDIVIDUALS REGISTERED TO VOTE WITH THE
STATE OF DELAWARE BY MARCH 23, 2020 AT AN
ADDRESS WITHIN COUNCIL DISTRICTS 3 AND 5 ARE
ELIGIBLE TO VOTE IN THIS ELECTION.
IDENTIFICATION WILL BE REQUIRED OF ALL VOTERS.

THE CITY OF NEWARK IS MAILING ABSENTEE BALLOT
AFFIDAVITS TO ALL REGISTERED VOTERS IN DISTRICTS
3 AND 5. TO RECEIVE AN ABSENTEE BALLOT, PLEASE
RETURN THE AFFIDAVIT TO THE CITY SECRETARY'S
OFFICE, CITY OF NEWARK, 220 SOUTH MAIN STREET,
NEWARK, DE 19711 BY FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2020 TO
GUARANTEE YOUR BALLOT WILL BE MAILED OUT IN
TIME TO BE RETURNED FOR THE ELECTION.

ANY QUESTIONS CALL 366-7000 OR EMAIL
CITYSECRETARY@NEWARK.DE.US

2899993 NP

3/20,4/3,4/10/2020

Wilmington Brew Works, LLC. has on March 12, 2020 applied with the Alcoholic Beverage Control Commissioner for **Patio Extension and Variance for external speakers** for a premises located at **3129 Miller Rd. Wilmington, Delaware, 19802**. Persons who are against this application should provide written notice of their objections to the Commissioner. For the Commissioner to be required to hold a hearing to consider additional input from persons against this application, the Commissioner must receive one or more documents containing a total of at least 10 signatures of residents of property owners located within 1 mile of the premises or in any incorporated areas located within 1 mile of the premises. The protest(s) must be filed with the Alcoholic Beverage Control Commissioner at the 3rd Floor, Carvel State Office Building, 820 North French Street, Wilmington, DE 19801. The protest(s) must be received by the Commissioner's office on or before **April 11, 2020**. Failure to file such a protest may result in the Commissioner considering the application without further notice, input, or hearing. If you have questions regarding this matter please contact the Commissioner's Office.

2898988 NP

3/13,3/20,3/27/2020

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

Petitioner(s)

TO

JASON WILLIS CARTER

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that JASON RAY SPARKLIN 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 JASON WILLIS CARTER.

JASON RAY SPARKLIN

Petitioner

Dated: 3/4/2020

2897964 NP

3/13,3/20,3/27/2020

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

JAS-LYNN RYLE

Petitioner(s)

TO

JAS-LYNN WOMACK

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that JAS-LYNN RYLE 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 JAS-LYNN WOMACK.

JAS-LYNN RYLE

Petitioner

Dated: 3/10/2020

2899065 NP

3/13,3/20,3/27/2020

PUBLIC NOTICE YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

PUBLIC NOTICES

CITY OF NEWARK
DELAWARE
COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

March 23, 2020 – 6:45 P.M. – CC

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

MOTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Executive Session pursuant to 29 Del. C. §10004 (b) (9) for the purposes of personnel matters in which the names, competency and abilities of individual employees are discussed, unless the employee requests that such a meeting be open.

(Executive Session to conclude at 7:00 p.m. with Council meeting to resume immediately after. Council may continue Executive Session after the conclusion of the agenda of the regular business meeting.)

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

SILENT MEDITATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1. ITEMS NOT ON PUBLISHED AGENDA:

A. Elected Officials who represent City of Newark residents or utility customers (2 minutes)

B. University

(1) Administration (5 minutes per speaker) (3 minutes)

(2) Student Body Representative(s) (5 minutes per speaker) (2 minutes)

C. City Manager (2 minutes)

D. Council Members (5 minutes)

E. Public (5 minutes per speaker) (10 minutes)

2. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: (1 minute)

A. Approval of Council Meeting Minutes – March 2, 2020

B. Approval of Council Meeting Minutes – March 9, 2020

C. Receipt of Alderman’s Report – March 9, 2020

D. Receipt of Conservation Advisory Commission 2019 Annual Report

E. Receipt of Green Building Code Work Group Minutes – December 17, 2019

F. First Reading – Bill 20-11 – An Ordinance Amending Chapter 27, Subdivisions, and Chapter 32, Zoning, Code of the City of Newark, Delaware to Increase Land Use Application, Plan Review and Public Works and Water Resources Fees – Second Reading – April 27, 2020

G. First Reading – Bill 20-12 – An Ordinance Amending the Comprehensive Development Plan by Changing the Designation of Property Located at 734 Paper Mill Road and 5 and 11 Possum Hollow Road – Second Reading – April 27, 2020

H. First Reading – Bill 20-13 – An Ordinance Annexing and Zoning to RD (Single Family Detached Residential) 4.47 Acres Located at 734 Paper Mill Road and 5 and 11 Possum Hollow Road – Second Reading – April 27, 2020

*3. APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS:

A. Reappointment of Kismet Hazelwood to the Conservation Advisory Commission as an At-Large Member for a Three-Year Term to Expire March 15, 2023 (5 minutes)

B. Reappointment of Stacy McNatt to the Planning Commission as the District 3 Member for a Three-Year Term to Expire September 15, 2022 (5 minutes)

4. ITEMS NOT FINISHED AT PREVIOUS MEETING: None

*5. SPECIAL DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

A. General Assembly Update and Associated Requests for Council Direction – Lobbyist (10 minutes)

B. Resolution No. 20- : A Resolution Supporting an Application for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grant (10 minutes)

*6. RECOMMENDATIONS ON CONTRACTS & BIDS OVER \$75,000: None

*7. ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING & PUBLIC HEARING:

A. Bill 20-08 – An Ordinance Amending the Comprehensive Development Plan by Adding a New Planning Area 7 to Chapter 11: Growth and Annexation (60 minutes)

B. Bill 20-09 – An Ordinance Amending the Comprehensive Development Plan by Changing the Designation of Property Located at 118, 126 and 130 New London Road (See 8-A) (45 minutes for 7-B and 8-A)

C. Bill 20-10 – An Ordinance Amending Chapter 2, Administration, Code of the City of Newark, Delaware, By Expanding the Ethics Board to Seven Members, Creating a Staggered Appointment Structure and Increasing the Quorum Requirement (5 minutes)

*8. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION AND/OR PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT:

A. Request of New London Avenue Associates, LLC for a Minor Subdivision with Site Plan Approval to Connect Three Existing Lots Into One Parcel and Construct Two New Five-Bedroom Units Between the Three Existing Four-Bedroom Homes to Create a Total of Five Townhouse Units with 22 Total Bedrooms and to Expand the Parking Lot to Accommodate the New Units at the Property Located at 118, 126 and 130 New London Road (Agreement and Resolution Attached) (See 7-B)

*OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENT – Information regarding participation in the March 23, 2020 City Council meeting will be made available at <https://newarkde.gov>. Comments on any agenda item may be sent in advance of the meeting by dropping them off in the lobby of the municipal building (220 South Main Street, Newark), email (council@newark.de.us) or fax (302-366-7067).

Agenda Posted – March 16, 2020

2899985 NP3/20/2020

Urban Kitchen LLC has on March 6, 2020 applied with the Alcoholic Beverage Control (“Commissioner”) for restaurant liquor license that includes a Sunday permit for the sales, service and consumption of alcoholic beverages and on a patio for the premises located at 2670 Capitol Trail, Newark, Delaware 19711 (Tax Parcel No. 08-055.10-151). Persons who are against this application should provide written notice of their objections to the Commissioner. For the Commissioner to be required to hold a hearing to consider additional input from persons against the application, the Commissioner must receive one or more documents containing a total of at least 10 signatures of residents or property owners located within 1 mile of the premises or in any incorporated areas located within 1 mile of the premises. The protest(s) must be filed with the Alcoholic Beverage Control Commissioner at the 3rd Floor, Carvel State Office Building, 820 North French Street, Wilmington, DE 19801. The protest(s) must be received by the Commissioner’s office on or before April 6, 2020. Failure to file such a protest may result in the Commissioner considering the application without further notice, input or hearing. If you have questions regarding this matter please contact the Commissioner’s Office.

2898224 NP3/13,3/20,3/27/2020

LEGAL NOTICE
RE: DEADLY WEAPON

I, Brian Dante Menefee, residing at 146 Couples Dr., 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.

Brian Dante Menefee,
03/11/20

2899210 NP3/20/2020

PUBLIC AUCTION

A Public Auction will be held on March 31, 2020, at 10:00 AM for the contents of Storage Unit: #31, James H. Brown, Contents: Furniture, bikes, moped, misc. bags of unknown items; Unit: #31, James H. Brown c/o Sean Rhodes, Contents: Furniture, bikes, moped, misc. bags of unknown items.

Affordable Mini-Storage
120 Brookside Drive
Wilmington, DE 19804

np 3/20,272895700

LEGAL NOTICE
RE: DEADLY WEAPON

I, Rodney David Henry, Jr., residing at 5 Regal Court, Newark, Delaware 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.

Rodney David Henry Jr,
03/17/20

2899973 NP3/20/2020

LEGAL NOTICE
RE: DEADLY WEAPON

I, Melvin Dwayne Billops, residing at 7 Crown Point, 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.

Melvin Dwayne Billops,
03/13/20

2899630 NP3/20/2020

PUBLIC
NOTICE
YOUR
RIGHT
TO
KNOW

Fusion Racing offers virtual running challenge during pandemic

Newark-based initiative draws participants from 22 states

By SEAN GROGAN
sgrogan@chespub.com

With gatherings of more than 10 people banned in Newark, Fusion Racing is offering an alternative for runners unable to compete in races for the foreseeable future.

The Hoppy Runner – Virtual Challenge offers racers a chance to interact and compete with runners from across the country while still adhering to CDC guidelines regarding COVID-19. Participants will post a picture proving how far they have run each day to a private Facebook group. The challenge is to run either 50 or 100 miles by the end of April.

“With everything that’s been going on, we probably had about 15 races in the next two months that have either been canceled or postponed,”

Fusion Racing founder and president Nic DeCaire said. “For runners all over the country – we’re upset. They’ve been training for marathons, half-marathons, races, and everything’s getting canceled across the country.”

The challenge began Monday and lasts through April 30. Interested runners may register until April 1.

DeCaire initially hoped for at least 100 participants. As of Monday night, only 48 hours after registration had opened, 400 people had signed up from 22 different states.

“It didn’t stay local, which was kind of cool to have all these people across the country participating in this,” DeCaire said. “We’re all in the same boat. We’re all looking for something to do and we’re all runners. It’s a community.”

Natalie Rosenberg, of Wilmington, decided to participate as a way to stay motivated in her training.

“I’ve been thinking about doing a half [marathon] in the summer or fall and I thought this would be a good way to motivate me to keep up



NEWARK POST FILE PHOTO BY JOSH SHANNON

Fusion Racing’s normal events, like the Main Street Mile pictured here, aren’t possible during the coronavirus pandemic. Instead, the organization is offering a virtual running challenge.

with running right now and maybe do some longer runs,” she said. “It will keep me accountable with my running instead of doing just my usual three- or four-mile runs that I’ve been doing. Since everyone sees how much you run everyday, it’ll motivate me to

do a longer run.”

She immediately crunched the numbers and believes 100 miles by the end of April is possible. Those who complete it will be mailed a medal and T-shirt. Participants who run 50 miles receive a medal.

“They can walk it, they can

jog it, they can run it. We created a social media event page for it where they post their mileage to, so it gets them communicating with other runners,” DeCaire said. “You’re really using social media to create the community – posting on Facebook, inter-

acting with them, talking with them. Besides the running aspect, asking people where they’re from, trying to get common bonds between people and letting those relationships build organically is what we’ve done in the past and it seems to really work. We’ve seen this before – people will make friends. Runners travel to other states, so they might meet somebody in California. Maybe a year from now, somebody goes to California to do a race and they meet up with these people they met online through this.”

DeCaire said Fusion Racing will post in the Facebook group each day. Then, in the comments, runners will share a picture of their results from that day. It can be a picture of their treadmill, Fitbit, Apple Watch or however mileage is recorded. Fusion will record the results in a spreadsheet.

“It’s very manual,” DeCaire said. “Like everybody, we have employees. How do you keep them busy, keep them paid during this time? If we don’t events, we don’t have income coming in.”

Newark Police charge two men with dealing drugs

By JOSH SHANNON
jshannon@chespub.com

Newark Police have charged two men who were found with drugs packaged for sale, authorities reported.

Officers pulled over the men’s vehicle in the 1100 block of South College Avenue on March 12 after suspecting them of being involved in illegal drug transactions, according to Lt. Andrew Rubin, a spokesman for the Newark Police Department.

Mark Clarke, 21, of Newark, was in possession of a handgun, prescription pills and marijuana. Marquis Martin-Hair, 21, of Bear, was found with prescription pills and marijuana, Rubin said.

Inside their vehicle were supplies used for packaging drugs for sale.

After arresting the men, police searched their room at a nearby motel and found marijuana packaged for sale, along with a prescription medication bottle with the label scraped off, said Rubin, who did not

name the motel.

Clarke was charged with possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony, possession of a firearm by a person prohibited, carrying a concealed deadly weapon, possession of drug paraphernalia. He was released on \$26,500 unsecured bail.

Martin-Hair was charged with possession with intent to deliver drugs, second-degree conspiracy and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was released on \$11,500 unsecured bail.



MARTIN-HAIR



CLARKE

Newark launches contest to name new stormwater park

By JOSH SHANNON
jshannon@chespub.com

After years of planning, the stormwater pond and park at the site of former Rodney dorms is designed. Voters approved borrowing \$9 million to fund it. The dorms have been demolished, and construction of the park will begin soon.

Now, city officials just need something to call it.

“We haven’t determined a name for the Rodney project yet, aside from ‘the Rodney project,’ which doesn’t have the staying power we’re looking for,” City Manager Tom Coleman said.

Coleman and city council are turning to the public for suggestions. Potential names for the park can be submitted at www.surveymonkey.com/r/WN-JYM7T through March 26.

City officials will review the suggestions and submit six finalists to city council for approval before putting the

finalists up for a public vote.

“We’re trying to avoid Parky McPark-face or whatever else would come out of a general solicitation,” Coleman quipped.

Proper names will not be considered, meaning that park cannot be named for a person. That restriction includes references to Caesar Rodney, city spokeswoman Jayme Gravell said.

The person who submitted the winning name will earn a \$100 gift card to be used for Newark Parks & Recreation programs.

Mayor Jerry Clifton suggested that the name should somehow acknowledge UD’s history at the site.

“We ended up getting that parcel for just over \$1 million,” he said. “That parcel had a real value to the university of over \$10 million. I think there should be some homage paid to the university for their donation to this, and I will call it a donation.”



SUBMITTED IMAGE

An updated artist’s rendering shows the stormwater pond and park planned for the Rodney site.

Police: Newark man accidentally fired bullet into neighbor’s house

By JOSH SHANNON
jshannon@chespub.com

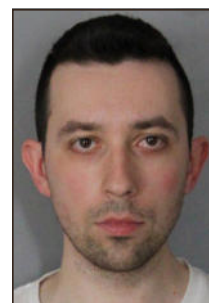
A Newark man was arrested Saturday night after accidentally firing a bullet through the wall of his neighbor’s house, police reported.

The incident happened just before 10 p.m. in a duplex on Caldwell Place in George Read Village, according to Lt. Andrew Rubin, a spokesman for the Newark Police Department.

Wiktor Kedzierzawski, 27, ad-

mitted to police that he was trying to “dry fire” his handgun – which means fire blanks – inside his home but accidentally fired a real bullet, Rubin said.

“He does this in his house on a regular basis, but on this day, he mixed up the



KEDZIERZAWSKI

blanks and the bullets and fired a bullet,” Rubin explained.

The bullet became lodged in the wall that is shared with the adjoining residence, Rubin said.

The neighbor was home, but no one was hurt.

Police seized the handgun and charged Kedzierzawski with first-degree reckless endangering and possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony. He was released after posting \$15,000 secured bail.