

District 4 Messages from Marge

Update on WAWA

I heard on Saturday, April 5, that the Park-n-Shop Shopping Center had been sold, so I contacted the property management company and asked to meet with them to discuss whether that was true, who the new owner was (and I wanted to meet with them) and the status of the WAWA.

I had previously reached out to the management company in January and spoke with the representative of the center, and I felt we had a good conversation. During the course of that conversation I requested that they reach out to the Greater Newark Development Partnership to see if they can assist in identifying tenants for the center. They have recently reached out to them.

WAWA has canceled their lease agreement, and the shopping center is currently under contract to be sold to the management company. If everything goes as planned, settlement should occur sometime in early June. The management company is actively looking for businesses to move into the vacant space in the center; they explained they are doing whatever it will take to revitalize the current center. They noted, however, that nothing prevents WAWA from coming to them in the future and requesting a new agreement, but they have heard nothing so far. I asked them to please contact me when they have some definite plans for the center and they promised to contact me and share plans when they are available. I feel very positive about my communications with the management company and I think they understand the sensitivity involved with future growth there. If I should hear anything new I will pass it along.

Rail Car Safety Information Session on April 17

As a result of constituent concerns, I reached out to City staff and asked if the public could be informed regarding rail car safety. The City took the lead and worked hard to put a program together. The City of Newark hosted a public information session regarding railroad safety and emergency response to railroad incidents in the City of Newark. The presentation was held on Thursday, April 17, 2014, at 6:30 pm at Aetna Fire Hall, located at 400 Ogletown Road, Newark.

The program included speakers from the Newark Police Department, Aetna Hose Hook & Ladder Company, New Castle County Office of Emergency Management, DelDOT, Norfolk Southern Railroad, and PBF Energy.

Topics included emergency preparations and response and public notification procedures in the event of an emergency. The presentation was followed by the opportunity to ask questions.

The Data Center and Associated Power Plant

The most up to date information can be found at the City of Newark website: <http://www.cityofnewarkde.us/index.aspx?NID=863>. There was also an interesting article in the News Journal Sunday: <http://www.delawareonline.com/story/news/local/2014/04/12/ud-touts-data-center-rejected-rowan/7652383/>. This is a complicated issue and it is important that everyone read everything that is available and to stay current.

(Also, special thanks to Dr. Burt Abrams for suggesting that I read his book *The Terrible 10: A Century of Economic Folly*. There was a chapter that showed some parallels, very interesting!)



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Stormwater and Fee

I have been holding firm that if a fee needs to be charged, it is something that we, as a community, should support. Having said that, now that the State of Delaware is talking about charging their own stormwater fee, I spoke with the City Director of Finance and asked that we (Newark) either be exempt or that he will make sure that Newark residents won't be double-dipped on stormwater charges or fees.

As of today City staff are still crunching numbers as a result of conversations with the public from the three stormwater community meetings. To all those who participated at the workshops, thanks for your feedback!

A Caring Community

In December a family from our district who was in desperate circumstances reached out to me. With the assistance of my office at UD, which adopted the family; our FOP, who also adopted the family; and Mayor Sierer, who provided help via the Newark Area Welfare Committee; we were able to provide heating oil, gifts for the children, clothing, books, food and monetary contributions to help them to have a wonderful holiday season and give them the edge they needed to get back on track.

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Since January 2014, I have represented District 4 and the City of Newark at the following events:

Two ribbon cuttings

One half-day workshop on stormwater management

Two half-day workshops in Dover on land use and development

One full-day workshop in Dover on community disaster remediation and recovery

An event at the Newark Senior Center, "Soup for Bowls"

Two stormwater public sessions

Meeting with a constituent regarding a possible Town Center and park

Trip to Washington, D.C. to visit with our state leaders (via the Delaware League of Local Governments)

Blue & Gold Basketball event

Boards and commissions workshop

Medal of Honor ceremony to honor Delaware recipients

Delaware League of Local Governments meeting in Dover



DE Air National Guard opening reception and ribbon cutting, 2014 (NEWARK POST PHOTO BY KARIE SIMMONS)



Wine and Dine 2014 (NEWARK POST PHOTO BY KARIE SIMMONS)



Special public meeting with Council, 2013 (NEWARK POST PHOTO BY KARIE SIMMONS)

Contact Information

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