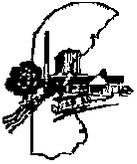


Nov. 4, 2016



# COUNTY COMMENTS

Newsletter of the  
**CIVIC LEAGUE FOR NEW CASTLE COUNTY**  
 Informed citizens for sound County growth.

## NOVEMBER MEETING

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2016**

**7:00 P.M.**

**CHRISTIANA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SOCIAL HALL**

15 N. Old Baltimore Pike, Christiana (Old Rt. 7)

### **Roundtable on Traffic and Trucks**

Inviting experts to share discussion

Founded in 1962.

P.O. Box 5562  
Marshallton, DE  
19808

302-529-1529  
[www.CivicLeagueforNCC.org](http://www.CivicLeagueforNCC.org)

Jordyn Pusey,  
President

The Civic League is a non-profit, non-partisan, volunteer organization. The opinions expressed herein are those of the authors of the individual articles and not a position of the Civic League unless so stated. Authors are responsible for the accuracy of their statements. The Editor will accept corrections and comments, as well as articles from any member including residents of member civic associations. Articles may be edited to conserve space and should be about the County.

### **Candidates Night Quick Summary**

The **Lt. Governor** nominees led off an informative evening for the Civic League at the Mill Creek Fire Hall on October 18<sup>th</sup>. Emphasizing her many years as a State **Senator** and former Rep., **Bethany Hall-Long** spoke of her successful bills to provide better health care for children and families in Delaware. Known for her productivity as a sponsor, she has drawn on her background as a Ph.D nurse and a professor of nursing at UD. She is also known for her fight to raise the minimum wage and other measures to strengthen families and improve schools and the economy. Born on a Sussex farm, she now lives North of Middletown and is a Democrat.

Republican **La Mar Gunn** said he worked hard to rise above his impoverished beginnings in Oakmont, a suburb of Los Angeles. After graduating from college in Delaware, he has been a financial advisor in Kent County and active in community programs that help disadvantaged youth. He is the Kent County President of the NAACP. He is stressing his interest in the creation of jobs and development and he feels as the Lt.Governor, he can play a role in that mission.

**Congressman John Carney, Democrat Candidate for Governor** sent written answers to our questions which are posted on our website.

**GOP Senator Colin Bonini** was the only gubernatorial candidate to appear live, so we enjoyed learning the views of the Senate Minority Leader who has survived decades in Legislative Hall outnumbered by Democrats. Senator Bonini addressed the looming Budget crisis the Legislature faces next year.

The Civic League meets the third Tuesday of each month except July, August and December. Unless special events are being held, the meetings are usually at the Christiana Presbyterian Church Social Hall on old Route 7 in Christiana. The public is welcome to attend all meetings which generally start at 7:00 P.M. The agenda of the group is focused on New Castle County government and those State issues that impact County government or our quality of life in this County.

For further information, please visit our website.

## CANDIDATES NIGHT con't

. A lot of cooperation will be needed on the part of both parties to find new sources of revenue and cut the Budget enough to balance it as required by the Constitution. He is truly optimistic, but wants our leaders to understand they are over regulating, over taxing, and over spending to the detriment of our economy. As he resides in Kent County, this was a rare opportunity to see him.

Colleagues of Colin and Bethany dropped in to watch. **Senators Dave Sokola** and **Patti Blevins**, the President Pro Tem of the Senate, spent some time greeting friends. They have both been members of the Civic League for many years. Her opponent, **Anthony DelCollo** a Republican, joined last year, attended once, promised to help, and only reappeared on this evening.

Another legislator dropped by, **Representative Mike Ramone** spent some time with us. He too is a member of the Civic League and a Republican.

Candidates for **Insurance Commissioner, Trinidad Navarro** and **Jeff Cragg** both demonstrated they really know insurance. Navarro was a County policeman & its communications person. He is now the Sheriff, but his father is an agent and he was raised in the business. Cragg has been running insurance operations for a group benefits company serving small businesses in 38 states. He is a business owner.

The **Libertarian for Congress, Scott Gesty**, CPA, believes in limited government and social tolerance.

**Mark Blake v. Matt Meyer for County Executive**  
The Blake-Meyer race for County Exec. has presented a challenge for our nonpartisan status. Mark Blake spoke for 21 minutes Candidates Night because Matt Meyer appeared and spoke 21 minutes in September. Both men are very intelligent and capable of being County Executive, but the many years of commitment to residents of this County shown by Mark helping them deal with County government impresses many as much as the poverty work of Meyer in Kenya and his teaching. As the *News Journal* asked, "What is the best background for a County Executive?"

## DECEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup> COCKTAIL PARTY

Ed Oliver Golf Course Clubhouse  
DuPont Road, Wilmington  
5 – 7 P.M.

Celebrating newly elected public officials  
\$3.00 at the door

tasty hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar

Sponsors: Delaware Coalition for Open Government  
The Delaware League of Women Voters  
The Civic League for New Castle County  
Other groups and persons to be announced

DelCOG will be presenting a Distinguished Service Award to retiring Senator Karen Peterson.

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Sen. Bethany Hall-Long, Bill Dunn, and Lamar Gunn while she answers a question from the audience at the Candidates Night in Mill Creek Fire Hall....



**CONTROVERSY CORNER**  
**AGREEING WITH POINT**

*Charlie Weymouth (unedited):* Vic speaketh with an excess of modesty. He has ferreted out the ill of such UDC modifications, and, repeatedly, in measured tone, offered on frequent occasion, positive alternate.

A personal observation is that a well structured, well presented, legalized format of UDC modification is but a fox in sheep's wool. One perceives the shrouded goal of substantially increased density, sprawled in New Urbanism clusters, falsely claiming to hold to former UDC mandates, (these latter borrowed from a Mid West document and inappropriate, when buffers are discussed, to our hilled County). The proposed UDC document is not bold to speak out. It is now time to belay the current Administration's UDC efforts, and engage in a new Comprehensive Plan, orchestrated at a, minimally State level entity to ensure necessary fiscal control and coordination, and, hopefully, carried out vision.

**AGREEING WITH COUNTERPOINT**

*Ruby W.:* Charlie and Vic believe that language added to insure that the critical protections of the UDC would be applied to the new UDC ordinances is meaningless. I disagree and I feel we can rely on the lawyer/planning consultant directing the drafting effort.

Charlie has now added his favorite idea to the discussion. That is that the State should be in charge of planning and zoning. In my opinion, the residents of this State have too little influence over State action where property is involved to put zoning at that level. Hopefully, someday the lower two counties and Chester Co. MD will be a Metropolitan Planning Area as New Castle County is with Cecil Co., MD. That will help insure federal money to assist us to handle interstate traffic all through this State. We are being totally inundated with it now in Sussex as well as New Castle County.

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**REMINDER**

**WE NEED YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES NOW  
IF YOU USUALLY PAY IN THE FALL**

Send to Scot Sauer, Treasurer, Civic League for New Castle County, P.O. Box 5562, Marshallton DE 19808

**ROUTES 41 & 48 A DIFFERING SUMMATION**

By Charles Weymouth, A.I.A.

The Civic League passed two resolutions some time ago regarding truck traffic on the Newport-Gap Pike (Route 41) and secondarily Route 48 (the Lancaster Pike) at my urging.

The resolutions suggested the State and County

1. Restrict/deny direct access (curb cuts) on interstate highways
2. Deny future residential development permits until private employment indicates more housing is required.

Change must occur through State Legislative and Executive action. These interstate routes originated and must now continue as substantial interstate trade routes.

The State controls access through DelDOT in cooperation with the County Dept. of Land Use. It has blithely permitted residential and commercial/retail intrusion upon these interstates, and thus ignored the original County Comprehensive Plan. The original Plan included a secondary road system (yet tactfully avoided spot locating of commercial/ retail.)

For over 10 years, alternate solutions to abate the resulting problems have been the following:

First, to insert a major interstate by-pass from Avondale, Pa. to tie in through Limestone Road, thence to I-95 and concurrent to this corrective pursuit, redirect local residential traffic onto the major routes by interconnecting the residential pockets of sprawl through back door access and interconnecting developments. For the latter, those living at a dead end or cul de sac have met such plans with understandable opposition as their quietness, privacy and child safety would be lost.

While noting the seeming lack of vision and foresight of the road and residential site design engineers, the true gorilla in the china shop (the bull having been exhausted), when a solution is found, begs the question, "Who should pay for it?" Such discussion in regard to any public investment should be foremost, particularly, at this time when the existent predominance of outside State financial sustenance is being court challenged. No candidate has addressed this nor many substantive issues.

The failure of local planning coordination compounded by a lack of assertion of control by the State agency failed to address the fact that local actions have regional impact. Which leads to the following recommendation: As I earlier presented in a proposed State Bill to the few conservative State Legislators, incorporate all planning and have it evolve from the State level, including Comprehensive Plans and rezonings. Empower a well paid Authority consisting of an economist, a Master Architect/Planner, and a recognized bond consultant to do them. Such an entity shall be required to have

vision, to be able to analyze issues, to create a broad and short term plan that includes steps to its implementation, the timing of those steps, the source of money, and a follow-up. They shall be charged with advancing our economy, preserving our natural and intellectual environment, and returning Delaware to the foremost in health, wealth, and education.

As to the screamers living along the Lancaster Pike, they should plug their ears and have a conversation with the people that sold them the bill of goods. The sellers surely knew what was to happen.

[Ed. Note: Had to edit greatly for length. Charlie was born close to Rt.41 & McKennan's Church Road sometime in the 1940s. He can remember all about the development and planning projects that created today's Christiana Hundred, I-95 Corridor, Pike Creek Valley and Hockessin regions among other regions since he graduated from Yale and completed his service in the U.S.Navy.]

**NOTE TO MEMBERS**

County Comments is produced in smart phone versions and mailed by USPS for those members who do not have a computer or prefer a printed edition. Call 302-529-1529 to change the way you receive it.

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