

Dear Neighbor,

I am very proud to serve as State Representative from Newark's 23rd District! I have met and talked with many of you during this first term, and I always welcome listening to your comments, suggestions, concerns, and problems. In this difficult time of increasing energy costs, less resources and heightened stress for us as a state and nation, I believe we need to be innovative with our problem solving, and also inclusive in getting everyone to the table to seek resolutions that will enhance our quality of life. Please do not hesitate to contact me at my home or legislative office.

One of my goals as a legislator is to provide resources and information for our community. To that end I have been holding various community meetings over the past year concerning safety and security issues; health and insurance for seniors; and most recently, a workshop on financial aid and scholarships. My next **Community Meeting** will be on **Monday, June 5th from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.** in the Council Chamber of the Newark Municipal Building on Elkton Road. Matt Denn, the State Insurance Commissioner will address various insurance topics, and Gerry Kelly, Deputy Banking Commissioner, will speak on fraud including identity theft and credit scores. I hope you will join us!

Sincerely,



## Class Size Task Force Update

I sponsored legislation which established a Class Size Task Force to examine issues surrounding class size and unit count allocation in the public schools and assess the waiver process.

The Task Force has had three meetings to date and hopes to issue a preliminary report in June. Interestingly, in the 2004–05 school year, 88 percent of all K–3rd grade classrooms in the state meet the class size mandate of one teacher per 22 students. Eighty-eight percent of all Christina

K–3rd grade classrooms also meet the requirement and of those not meeting the requirement, the average class size is 24. It appears that class size has dropped since this legislation was passed in 1998. However, some school districts must apply for a waiver as the issue becomes complicated by families moving, late enrollments, lack of space, and the overall unit count process. The Task Force is also gathering information on the relationship between class size and student achievement.

## Additional Legislation I've Sponsored

**House Bill 334: Identity Theft Passport** – This bill creates identity theft “passports” for persons who are victims of identity theft and who have filed police reports regarding such thefts. This passport may be used to document the innocence of ID theft victims and to help when disputing bogus accounts and charges.

**House Bill 413** – This bill authorizes the Department of Education to perform financial audits and reviews of school districts on a regular basis and/or as needed. Under current Delaware law, DOE must be invited into a school district to look at its finances. The legislation will establish a safeguard for school finances in the future.

## Report Adverse Road Conditions

Reporting a pothole, drainage issue or other road problems can now be done over the internet. Visit DelDOT's Web site at [www.deldot.gov](http://www.deldot.gov) and go to "Community Programs and Services," then click on the "Report a Road Condition" heading to file a report with DelDOT. Reports received will be routed directly to one of DelDOT's four district offices for immediate attention. People without Internet access may continue to call the district offices. Our office in Newark is 302-323-1111. Of course, all constituents should feel free to call me at home (454-8322) or the Wilmington office (577-8342).

**Tip from Terry** DelDOT will begin paving Main Street on June 5. Work will only take place at night (10 p.m.–7 a.m., Sun.–Thurs.) and one lane will stay open at all times. The intersection around Cleveland Ave., Hillside and New London Rd. will also be milled and paved this summer (9 a.m.–3 p.m., Mon.–Fri.).

## Committees

I am serving on the following House of Representatives Committees:

- Education
- Health & Human Development
- Energy
- Transportation, Land Use and Infrastructure

Committees meet generally on Wednesday afternoons when we are in session. You can find committee schedules and agendas on the General Assembly web page at [www.de.gov](http://www.de.gov) and click on General Assembly.

## Civic Association Meetings

If you are interested in having me attend your community meetings, please send me an e-mail or give me a call. I will be glad to come and talk with you and your neighbors. If there is a particular topic you would like to see addressed in future community-wide meetings, please let me know.

## Delaware's Green Energy Program

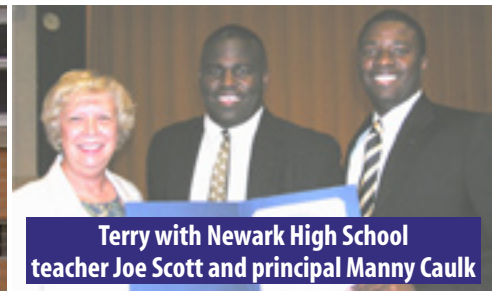
The Delaware Energy Office offers grants up to 50% of the installed cost of photovoltaic, solar, wind and geothermal renewable energy technologies for residents. To see if you qualify for the Green Energy Program start by reading through the *Frequently Asked Questions* at <http://www.delaware-energy.com/green-energy-program.htm>.

The FAQs contain information regarding what systems qualify, warranty information and grant calculations. Then you can apply online by using the document checklist. Or for more information contact Scott Lynch, Energy Program Planner II, State Energy Office at 302-739-1530.

City of Newark residents may also take part in this program beginning June 1. For more information, call 366-7080.



Allison Burris, WILMAPCO, Debbie Wilson, Downes teacher, Terry and Denise Schwartz, Downes Principal at the Safe Routes to School event



Terry with Newark High School teacher Joe Scott and principal Manny Caulk



Terry with JoAnne Deshon, winner of American Stars of Teaching Award



National Safe Kids Campaign

## Delaware's Full Tuition SEED Scholarships

Delaware's SEED (Student Excellence Equals Degree) scholarship program provides tuition for full-time students enrolled in an associate's degree program at Delaware Technical and Community College or the Associate of Arts program at the University of Delaware. Students graduating from Delaware high schools beginning in 2006 who have a GPA of 2.5 or higher and

no felony convictions are eligible. Details are available at <http://seed.scholarship.delaware.gov/>. Call the Delaware Higher Education Commission at 577-5240 for more information.

Check out [www.doe.state.de.us/high-ed](http://www.doe.state.de.us/high-ed) for more great information on financial aid, scholarships and college data.



Ronni Cohen of Delaware Money School with Terry and residents of the 23rd District

## Delaware Money School

The Delaware Money School is one of our best kept secrets. As part of the nonprofit Delaware Financial Literacy Institute, it offers more than 500 free, no-hassle personal finance classes a year. Classes are held throughout the state and include such categories as debt management, divorce financial planning, financial courses for retirees, financial planning for college, for those 50 and over, home ownership and mortgages, investing, long term care and classes for children of all ages. *From Purses to Portfolios: Delaware Women Take Charge of Their Money* is a free one-day conference to be held in October 2006. Check out [www.delawaremoneyschool.com](http://www.delawaremoneyschool.com).

**Tip from Terry** The Delaware Money School offers more than 500 FREE, personal finance classes a year. Visit [www.delawaremoneyschool.com](http://www.delawaremoneyschool.com) or call 792-1200 for a brochure.

## ELDERinfo

**Where can I get help if I don't understand my doctor's bills or health insurance statements?**

If you are a Medicare beneficiary, you can contact **ELDERinfo** at 1-800-336-9500. ELDERinfo is a program operated by the Delaware Insurance Department to assist Medicare beneficiaries with questions related to Medicare, Medicaid, Medicare supplement insurance, long term care insurance, and other types of health insurance. There is no charge for these services and all information is kept confidential.

You can also contact ELDERinfo about caregiver information and support.



Terry hosted a Senior Forum with Charles Jackson, former Delaware AARP President, to discuss health care issues.

**Tip from Terry** ELDERinfo provides free Medicare health insurance counseling. Call 1-800-336-9500.

## E-Mail Notifications

Listed below are some free Delaware-related e-mail notification services:

### Delaware Subscription Service

<http://www.diss.state.de.us/DWS/public.diss>

- School Closings, Delays and Early Dismissals
- Information from the Public Archives, including "This Day in Delaware" daily e-mails
- Press releases
- Sex Offender status changes
- Regulatory Actions
- Legislative Actions

### My DelDot

<http://www.deldot.gov/mydeldot.ejs>

This system will allow you to receive information directly from the Delaware Department of Transportation regarding traffic information, road conditions and press releases. This website also gives you contact information for malfunctioning traffic lights, missing/damaged signs, trees or shrubbery obstructing sight visibility, mailbox damage, Adopt-a-Highway program, snow removal and snow removal reimbursement program.

### Delaware Environmental Release Notification System

<http://www.dnrec.state.de.us/DNREC2000/admin/maillists.htm>

This e-mail allows Delawareans to learn promptly of releases or discharges of contaminants or pollutants that meet or exceed certain thresholds in their neighborhoods.

**Tip from Terry** The Newark Free Library has computers for your use! Check them out and even set up an e-mail account.

# Community Meeting: Scholarships, Financial Aid, & College Planning

Thank you to Maureen Laffey, Director of the Delaware Higher Education Commission, who spoke at my last Community Meeting on college financial aid. Some information is detailed below for those of you who were unable to attend.

- **FAFSA** – The FREE Application for Federal Student Aid is available at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). You should NOT pay anyone to tell you if you are eligible for aid. The FAFSA must be filed *each year* by April 15.
- **www.finaid.com** – This website contains a calculator to help you estimate the aid you could receive.
- **Types of aid** – 1) *Merit scholarships*, mostly academics, but also for music, sports, etc., 2) *Need-based aid* including grants, work-study, and subsidized loans, and 3) *Unsubsidized loans*.

- **Types of aid from the state of Delaware** – 1) *Academic scholarships*, 2) *Academic memorial scholarships* to UD or Del State 3) *Grants* 4) *Professional incentive programs* for nurses, teachers. See <http://www.doe.k12.de.us/high-ed/scholarships.htm>.
- **SEED Scholarships** – See page 2 of this newsletter for information.
- **Academic Common Market** – If your program of study is not offered by a

public college in Delaware, you may be eligible for in-state tuition at a participating college. See <http://www.doe.k12.de.us/high-ed/acm.programs.htm>.

- **AmeriCorp** – AmeriCorp can be a great option for students who aren't ready for college right after high school, and after two years of service you get \$4,725/year for college. See [www.cns.gov](http://www.cns.gov).
- Check [www.doe.k12.de.us/high-ed/](http://www.doe.k12.de.us/high-ed/) for more useful information.



**Contact me:** Call me at home: 454-8322  
or the office: 577-8342

E-mail me: [Terry.Schooley@state.de.us](mailto:Terry.Schooley@state.de.us)

Or join me for breakfast: Every Wednesday morning, 7:30 – 8:30 a.m. at Eagle Diner on Elkton Road. Please come by and share your concerns or questions, or just say hello. The coffee is on me!

**My next Community Meeting will be Mon., June 5, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., in Newark Municipal Building. Speakers will include Matt Denn, State Insurance Commissioner, on insurance and Gerry Kelly, Deputy Banking Commissioner, on fraud, identity theft and credit scores.**



State Representative Terry Schooley  
2 Chapel Hill Drive  
Newark, Delaware 19711

**Community Meeting  
June 5, 7 p.m.**

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**PAID**  
Wilmington, DE  
PERMIT NO. 203





- |   | Yes                      | No                       | Undecided                |  | Yes                      | No                       | Undecided                |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 10. Some states have imposed a moratorium on the use of the death penalty. Do you support the continued use of the death penalty in Delaware?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11. Do you favor expanding mass transit opportunities across Delaware, such as proposals to fund commuter rail services or increased bus service?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 12. Currently a driver's license is good for 5 years in Delaware. You take a road test to get your initial license, but unless there are special circumstances you do not take another road test. Would you support some restrictions or additional road tests for elderly drivers? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 13. Would you support a proposal to shift a percentage of funds to the Agricultural Lands Preservation Program from the Transportation Trust Fund which funds road construction?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**Any other issue you wish to bring to my attention?**

If you have any issues you wish to discuss with me, please contact me at home: **454-8322**, or office: **577-8342**, or by e-mail: **terry.schooley@verizon.net**. *If you wish a response to your questionnaire, please include your name and return address.*

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Please  
place stamp  
here

**Representative Terry Schooley**  
2 Chapel Hill Drive  
Newark, DE 19711