

Letter to the Editor

Levy Court Announcement

Submitted by George "Jody" Sweeney Candidate for 5th District Levy Court

In 1970, 80,000 people lived in Kent County. The projection for 2010 is 160,000 and 190,000 for 2030. Our county is one of the fastest growing areas in the country. In 1999, a Kiplinger Report listed Delaware as one of the tax friendliest states. Kent County has the lowest property rates of the three counties at \$0.25 per \$100 of assessed value. Kent County allocates more money toward the preservation of farmland than almost any other government and nearly half of Kent County's 800 square miles is open space. It is these facts that entice homeowners from New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania to relocate here when they choose their retirement home. It is also the reason why so many military retiring from active duty at Dover Air Force Base choose to stay in the Dover area. **We are victims of our own success.**

In 2002, during the run up to the 2002 Kent County Comprehensive Plan, a survey of residents revealed that the three most important issues facing the county were land use zoning, conserving natural resources, and traffic congestion. The theme from that 2002 Kent County Comprehensive Plan was "Together We Plan...Divided We Sprawl". Since that survey and the implementation of the 2002 Comprehensive Plan, more than 22,000 development lots have been approved. The Adequate Public Facilities Ordinances enacted last year require new developments to address their effect on Schools, Roads, water & sewer, and the paramedic service. The Democratic majority on Levy Court has made many changes to the previous administration's attitude toward development and continues to address issues through the new Comprehensive Plan. There is still work to be done.

Just recently, as the campaign season for November elections started, the politicians who want to get elected or re-elected are starting to be heard. They are more vocal at meetings, they show up to meetings, and their name is in the paper in advertisements. Where have they been for the last few years when Levy Court was discussing all of these issues? It is easy to sit on the sidelines, wait for the game to be over, then tell everyone what you would have done differently.

For two years, as a resident of the County, I have attended Kent County Levy Court meetings and events, Camden and Wyoming Town meetings, and local civic group meetings. As a Levy Court Commissioner, I will continue to represent the residents of the 5th District better than my opponent or any 5th District Commissioner before him. I will continue to attend all meetings requiring my presence, including County workshops, committee meetings, and budget hearings, as well as town council meetings and events. I will be responsible with the respect to the budget, taxes, and their effect on the residents of the District and County. I will be available to any District or County resident who needs help with County services. My phone number is published for any resident to call for help.

I will be a Levy Court Commissioner that my Family, Friends, constituents, and party will be proud of. Please join me at noon on Monday, June 23rd, on the steps of the historical Robert W. O'Brien building (the old Levy Court Building), on the corner of Federal and Water Streets as I announce my candidacy for the office of 5th District Levy Court Commissioner.