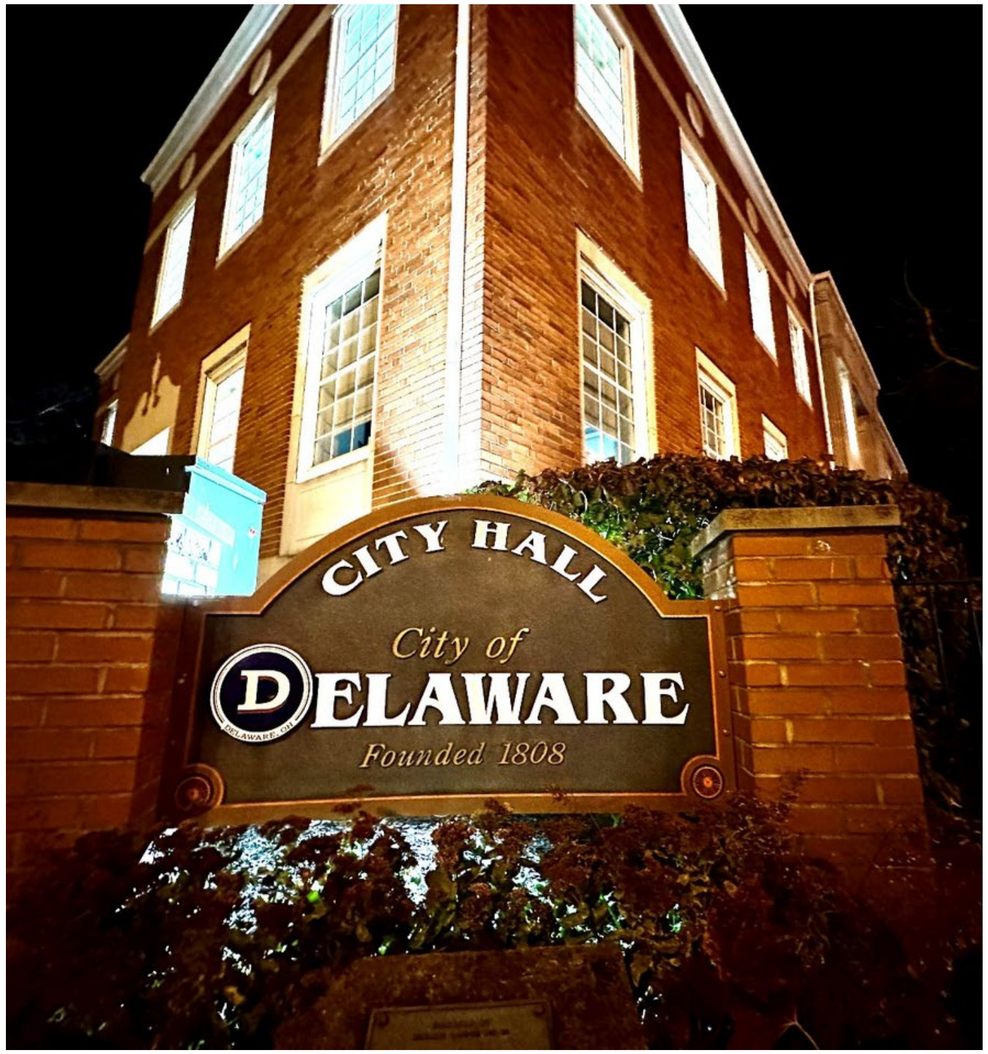
Delaware Citizens Academy

February 12, 2026

Lee Yoakum and Bob Hogensen,
Community Affairs Office

Stay Informed



- Facebook, X, Nextdoor and LinkedIn
- delawareohio.net
- City of Delaware E-News: Subscribe from our website home page
- Radio: Delaware City Digest airs live each Friday 9:30-10 am on WDLR 96.7 FM
- Del-AWARE mobile and desktop app
- Monthly utility bill Community Briefs
- Quarterly newsletter




The Who
VOX



February 12
Council-Manager Government
City Manager Paul Brake and Council Members

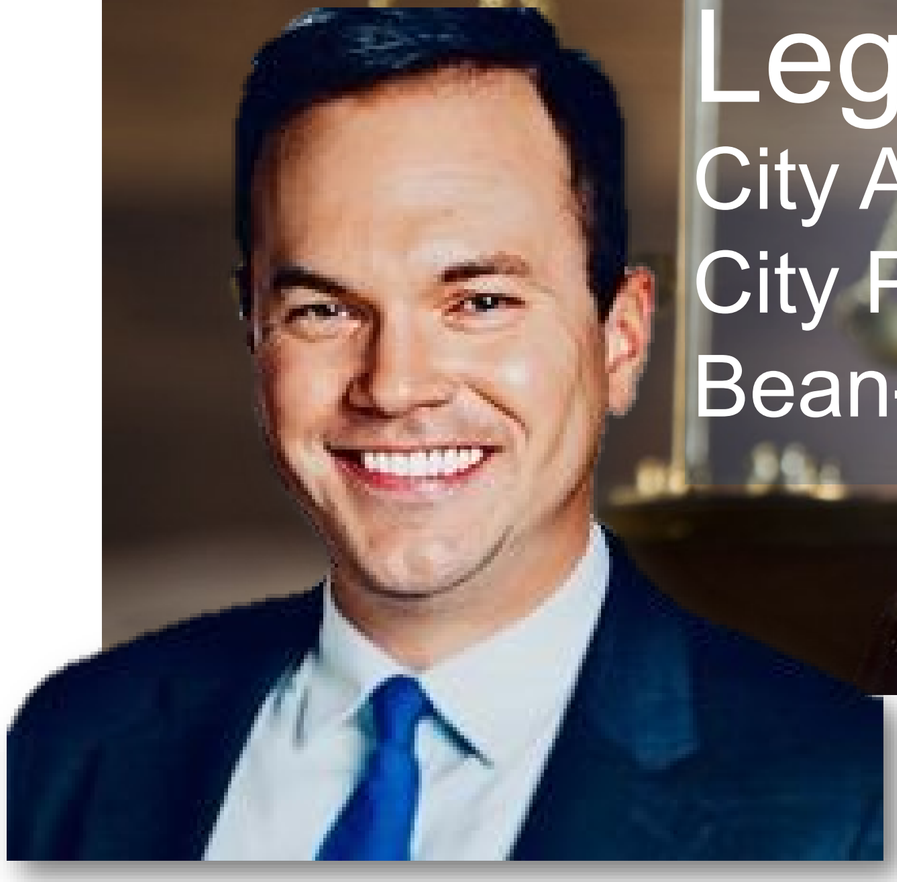
February 26
Finance and Taxes:

Finance Director
Alycia Ballone

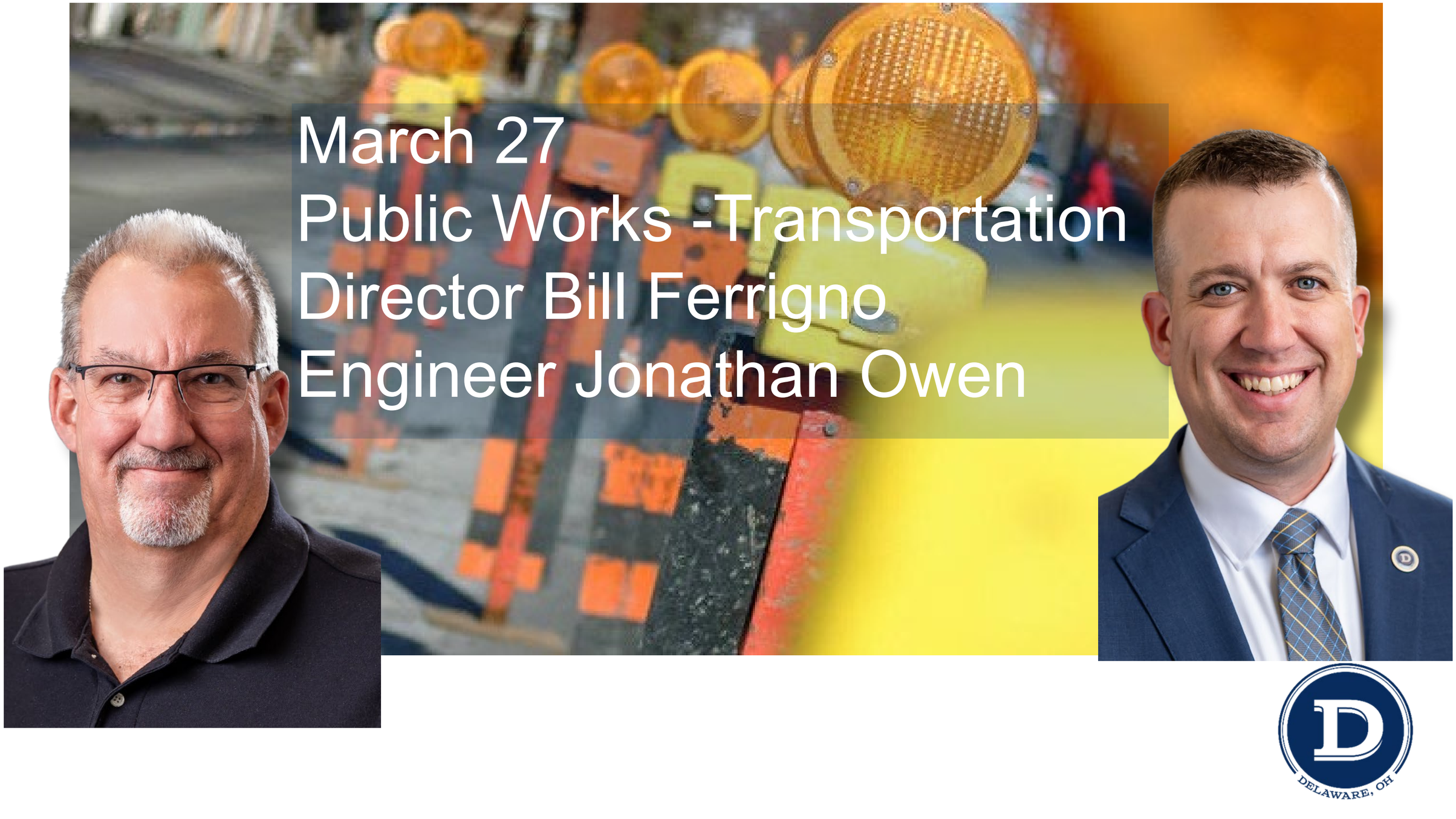
Tax Administrator
Lory Johnson



March 12
Legal Affairs:
City Attorney David Moser
City Prosecutor Amelia Bean-DeFlumer






March 27
Public Works -Transportation
Director Bill Ferrigno
Engineer Jonathan Owen
DELAWARE, OH



April 9 and April 10
Utilities: Water and Sewer

DELAWARE, OH



April 19
Fire and EMS Services
Fire Chief Tim Pyle



May 1
Parks and Recreation
Director Ted Miller


May 15
Police and Law Enforcement
Chief Adam Moore

May 29
Planning &Development

Director Sandra Pereira

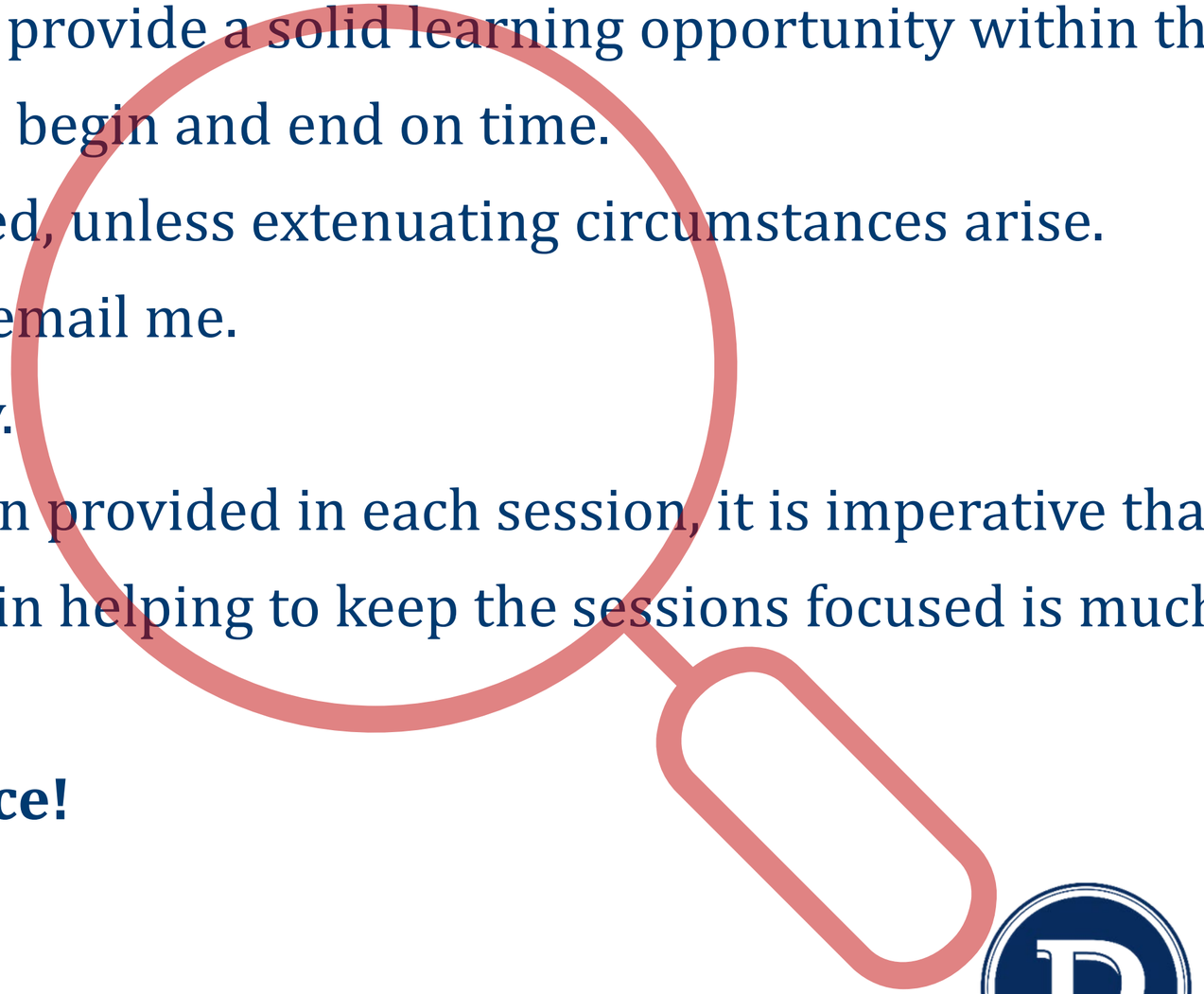
Zoning Admin. Anna Kelsey




June 9: Graduation

The Fine Print

- Each sessions has been designed to provide a solid learning opportunity within the timeframe allotted. All sessions will begin and end on time.
- Attendance at all sessions is required, unless extenuating circumstances arise. Should something come up, please email me.
- Engage with each other respectfully.
- Because of the wealth of information provided in each session, it is imperative that we all stay on task. Your assistance in helping to keep the sessions focused is much appreciated.
- **Have fun and enjoy this experience!**



Early Residents



- Delaware, Wyandot and Shawnee Indian tribes
- Trappers and traders
- Post Revolution was ‘wild west’
- Virginia Military Lands

DELAWARE, OH

The Three B's

Abraham Baldwin - Henry Baldwin - Moses Byxbe

- **Abraham Baldwin**: Georgia representative in the Continental Congress and served in U.S. House and Senate after the adoption of the Constitution

- Virginia Military Lands, plus purchased 8,000 acres in 1800

- Died in 1807; No children or wife; property went to half-brother, **Henry Baldwin**, later Associate Justice of U.S. Supreme Court


Abraham Baldwin

Henry Baldwin and Moses Byxbe

- Henry Baldwin, later Associate Justice of U.S. Supreme Court, already established in Pa.
- Moses Byxbe, from Masschussets, gains possession of land from Baldwin
- Age 48 in 1804 when he started west with family

Turns away from the Sunbury-Galena area to the west

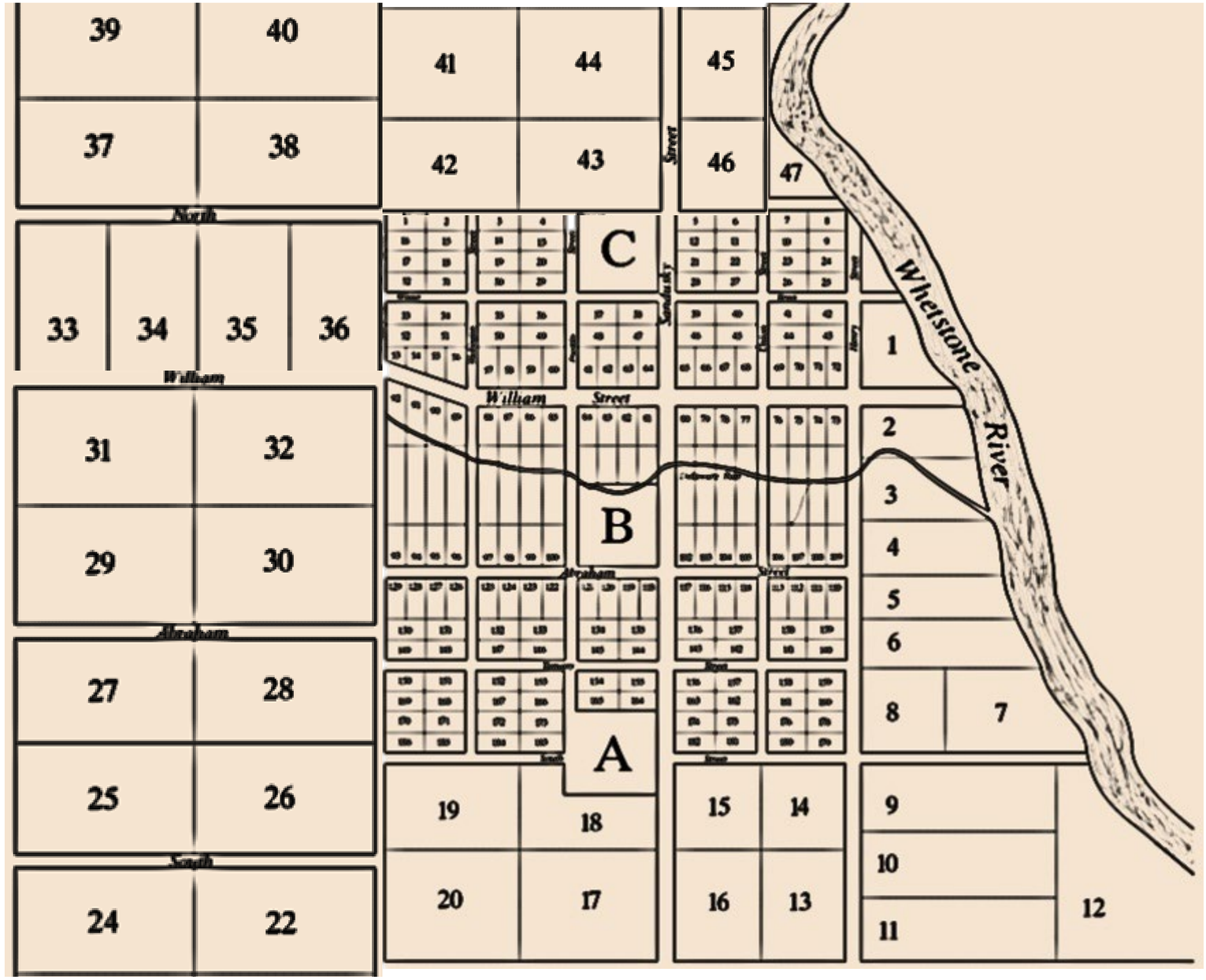
- East side or west side?
- 1808 Delaware formerly organized



Plat Map on file, May 9, 1808

Sandusky Street, at "6 poles wide," was planned by Byxbe to be 33 feet wider than nearby streets.

Decision helped establish the downtown central business district and easily accommodated the County Courthouse (1816) to the north and Ohio Wesleyan University (1842} to the south, as downtown anchors.



Steady Growth

The town grew steadily from its inception in 1808

- Contributors: People, businesses, institutions and industries
  - 1808: 32
  - 1850: 2,000
  - 1870: 6,000
  - 1900: 11,000
  - 1922: 18,000
- State Capital Aspirations: The Byxbe-Baldwin Plan was to donate grounds, erect the government buildings and sell nearby lots, with half of the proceeds going into the state treasury.

Today



$312,849
Median
Home Value



18,508
Households



45,792
Population

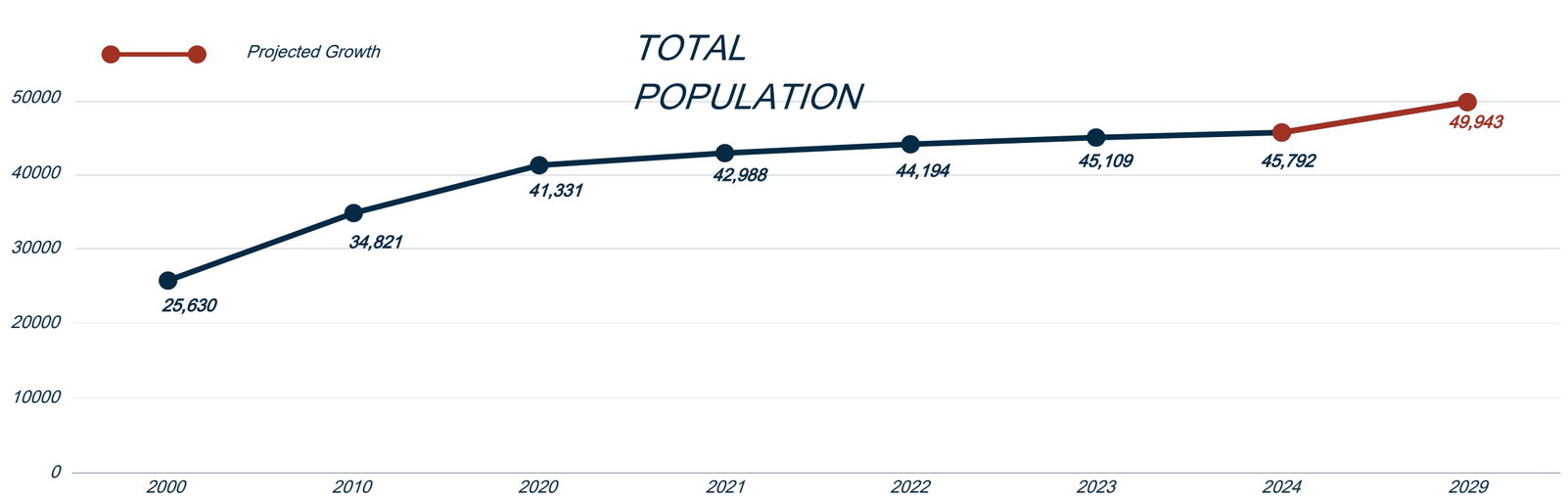


37.2
Median Age



$92,928
MedianHousehold
Income

Unmatched Growth



+ 2.7%
POPULATION

+ 1.9%
HOUSEHOLDS

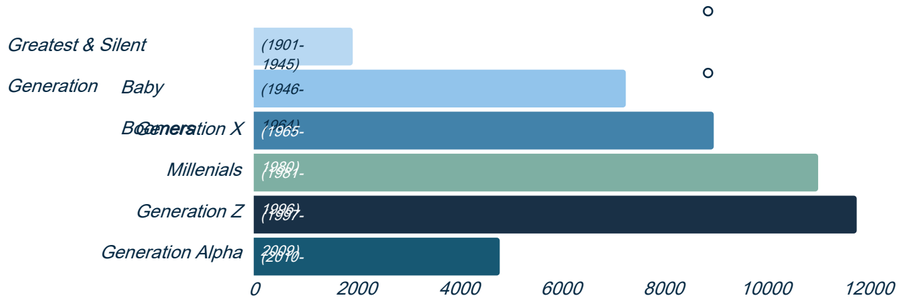
+ 1.8%
FAMILIES

The city is experiencing steady annual increases of 2.7% in population, 1.8% in families, and 1.9% in households. These consistent gains reflect strong housing demand, a rising number of young families, and a market that continues to expand year over year.

Delaware Demographics

Delaware's population reflects a vibrant mix of age, education, and economic engagement—an ideal demographic blend for modern retailers and restaurants. Delaware is anchored by two large, active generations:

Generation Z (ages: 10–27): 11,777 residents - Millennials (ages: 28–43): 11,024 residents



Delaware residents are highly educated — a key indicator of future spending power and brand engagement.



4.4%

No High School Diploma



24.3%

High School Graduate



25.0%

Some College/ Associate's Degree

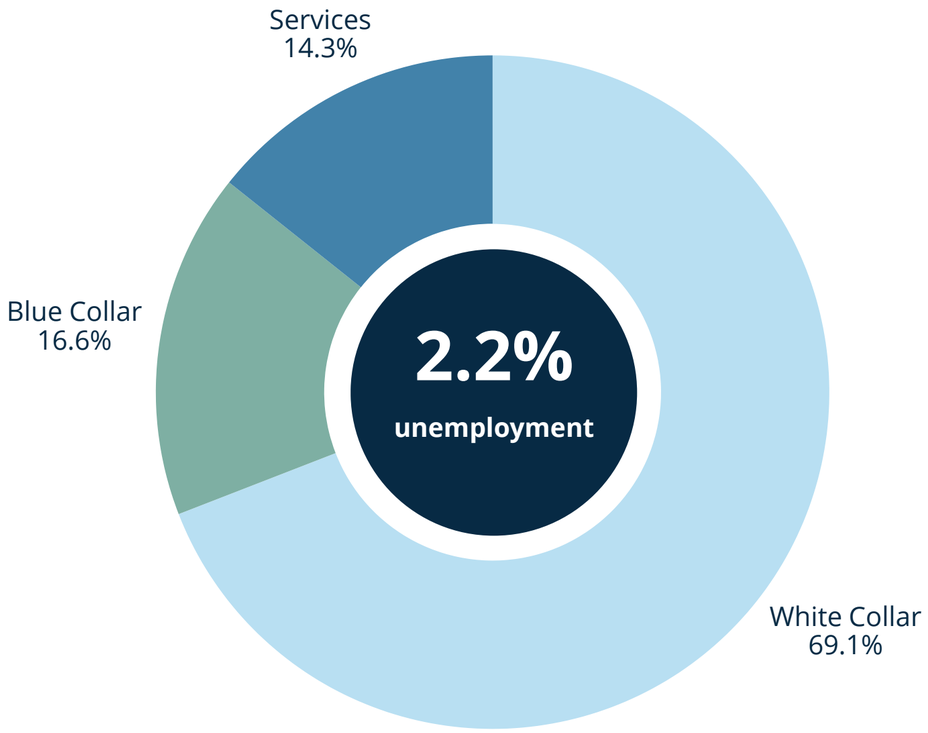


46.3%

Bachelor's/Grad/ Prof Degree

- Nearly half (46.3%) hold a Bachelor's degree or higher, well above national averages.
- Only 4.4% of adults lack a high school diploma A strong share (25%) have completed
- some college or earned an associate degree — positioning them for continued economic mobility and stable employment

Delaware Demographics

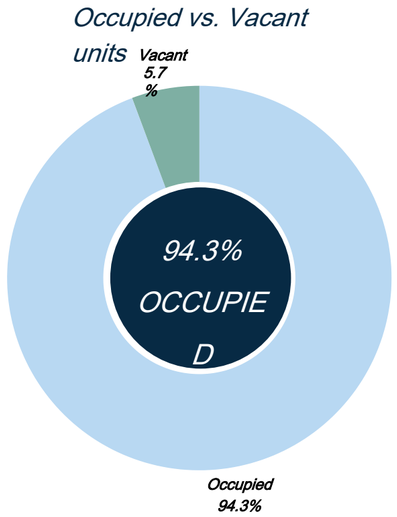


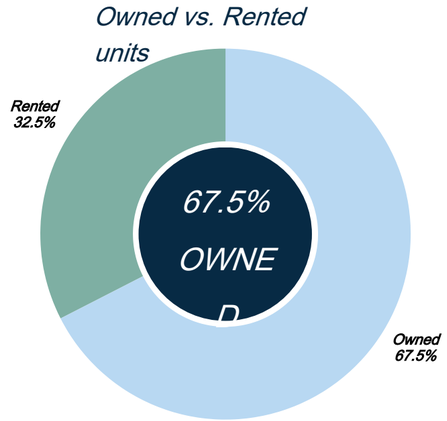
Delaware’s workforce is predominantly engaged in white- collar professions, with 69.1% of residents employed in roles such as management, business, finance, and technology. Blue- collar occupations make up 16.6% of the workforce, while 14.3% work in the service sector. This employment distribution reflects a skilled, economically diverse community with strong earning potential and consumer spending power.

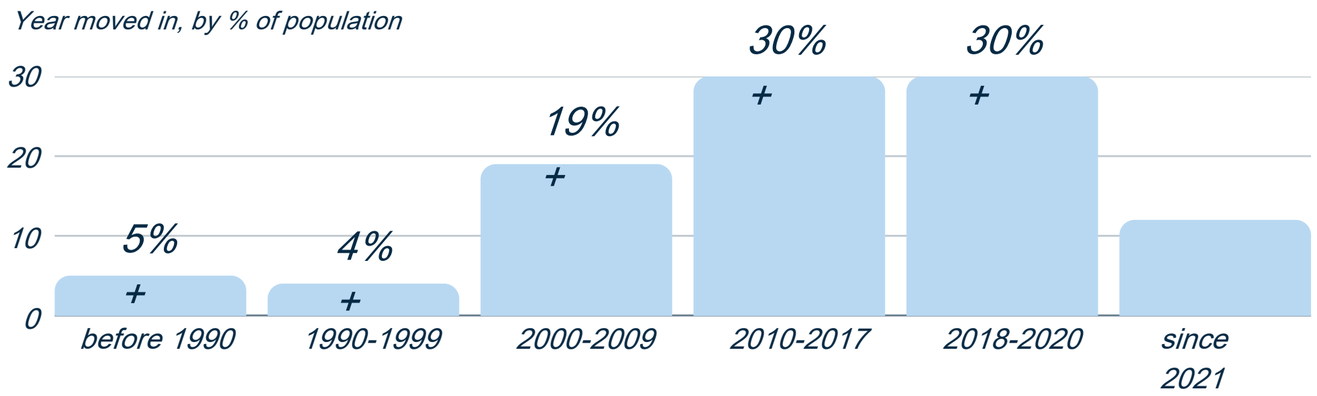
Housing



18,508
HOUSING UNITS



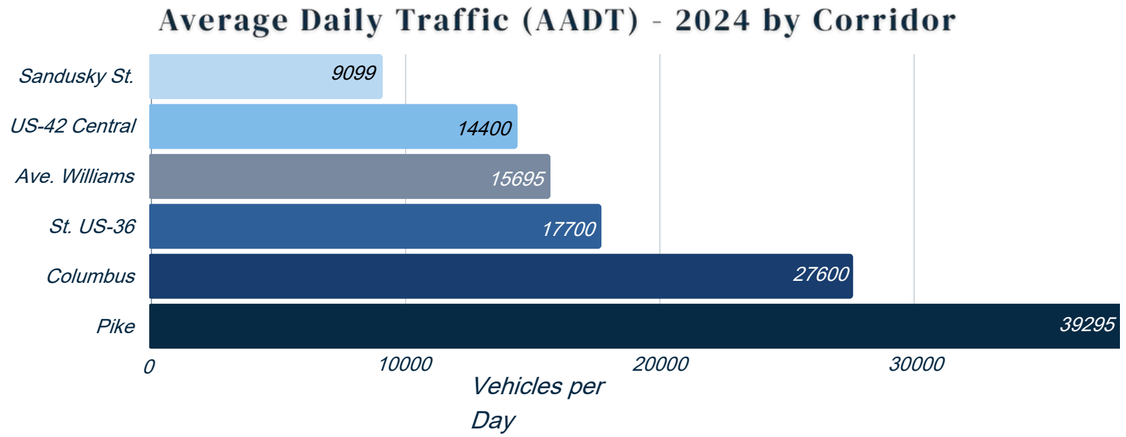




- Market reflects the city's population growth, appeal, economic stability.
- With 18,508 total units and a 95% occupancy rate, market is both active and tightly held indicating sustained residential demand.
- The majority of housing stock (70%) consists of single unit homes
- A significant portion of residents have moved in recently, with 30% settling in between 2010-2017 and another 30% between 2018-2020.
- This turnover illustrates Delaware's growing appeal to new families, workers, and retirees alike.

Traffic

- U.S. 23 and U.S. 36 daily traffic counts of 36,200 and 27,600 vehicles, respectively.
- East William Street and East Central Avenue over 15,000 vehicles per day, serving as key connectors.
- Intersection of Sandusky and William Street in the heart of historic downtown, is the busiest intersection
- U.S. 42, with over 14,000 vehicles daily



Diverse Business base

- More than 1,360 businesses and ver 17,000 full-time employees
- Health services make up the largest segment of the workforce at 16%, fueled by a growing population and rising household incomes.
- Manufacturing represents 13% of the local economy.
- Other key sectors include Retail (11%), Education (11%), Transportation (9.1%), and Government (8%).
- Delaware is not overly dependent on any single sector — a strength that contributes to its economic resilience

Opportunities

- Build on being a two-time *Ohio Magazine* Best Hometown, a *Money Magazine* Top 50 Best Place to Live in America and an award-winning downtown.

- Achieving more local employment and balanced local economy - with government, education, health care, manufacturing/industrial.

Challenges

Delaware … is both a mature community and a growing community

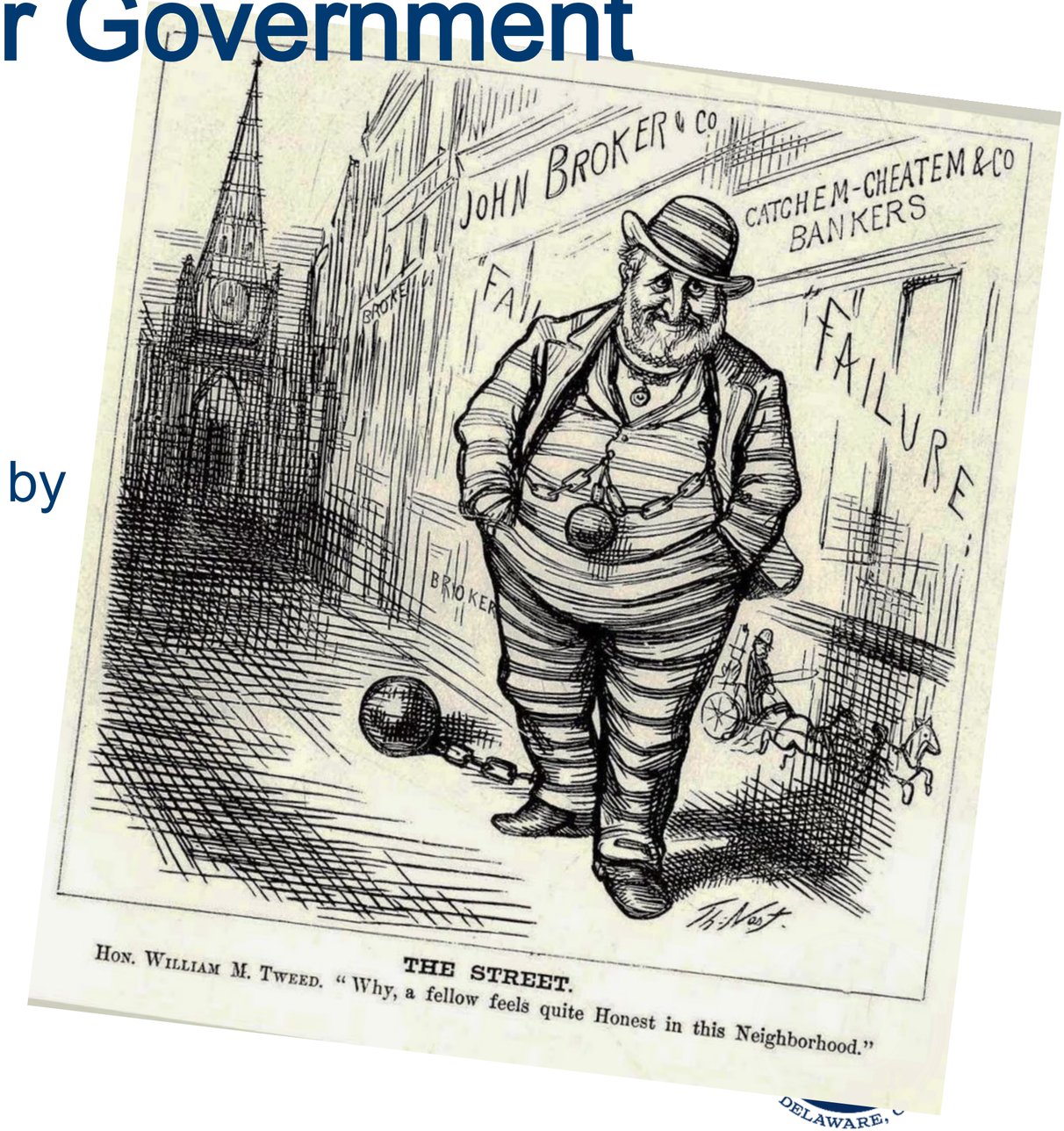
Council-Manager Form of Government

City Manager Paul Brake

Council Manager Government

History

- The Reform Movement
- City Charter, or Constitution, approved by Delaware voters in 1951
- Charter went into effect in 1954, 71 years ago
- First Council under new government
- elected in 1953



The City Manager's Role

- A Manager serves council and community
- Provides experience and expertise in administering local government projects and programs



The City Manager's Functions

Duties:

- Prepare budgets for council consideration; recruit, hire and supervise government staff
- Serve as council advisor
- Carry out council policies
- Provide pros and cons





City Council Functions

Functions

- Legislative body; the community's decision makers

- Vision and Focus
  Budgeting, major projects, growth, land use, development, capital improvement plans, financing, strategic planning … and more



Makeup of City Council

City Council

- Seven members
- Staggered election structure ensures continuity by eliminating the possibility of seating an entire new council in one election season
- Three AtLarge. Next election in November 2029
- Four Ward Representatives. Next election November 2027

Mayor and Vice Mayor

Selected by Council

- From the **At-Large** members Council selects a Mayor and a Vice-Mayor.
- Both serve in their respective roles for two (2) year terms.
- Preside at meetings of Council and are recognized as the official heads of the City for all ceremonial purposes. If the mayor is absent the vice mayor fulfills the mayor's duties.



Ordinances and Resolutions

There are Differences

- **An Ordinance** is a local law
- Ordinances commonly govern zoning, building, safety, etc.
- Three readings required before being voted on
- Effective 30 days after passage
- Exceptions: “waive the rules” and “emergency clause”

- **A Resolution** is not the same as an ordinance
- Less formal than an ordinance, usually concerning some matter of administration

Boards, Commissions and Committees

Their role in local government

- Local participation
- What they can and can’t do; advisory and regulatory
- Board, commission and committee seats are unpaid positions
- Meetings are open to the public

Airport Commission
Board of Zoning Appeals
Civil Service Commission
New Community Authority
Finance Committee
Historic Preservation Commission
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Planning Commission
Public Records Commission
Shade Tree Commission
Sister City Advisory Board

DELAWARE, OH