

Meet the candidate: Donna Kuzemchak

By Jen Bondeson News-Post Staff jbondeson@newspost.com | Posted: Thursday, August 22, 2013 2:30 am

Donna Kuzemchak is a Democratic candidate for alderman.

Should the city continue investing public dollars in business ventures? The city owns an airport (Frederick Municipal Airport), a theater (Weinberg Center for the Arts) and a golf course (Clustered Spires). Should the city be investing in a downtown hotel and conference center?

A downtown hotel and conference center could be a great boon to downtown Frederick.

Increased property taxes could be deferred for a number of years, but I don't believe present tax dollars should be spent on it.

Any business venture should be providing the city with funds after a certain amount of time. I don't see the airport or the Weinberg Center as business ventures, but as improvements to our quality of life.

Assess the efficiency of the Frederick Police Department. What improvements should be made?

Considering the police force has less officers than needed for a city this size, it is very effective.

The Frederick Police Department should be funded at a size nationally recognized as being needed for a city of 65,000-plus residents.

Our senior citizen, English language-learner and special needs populations are increasing.

Police should be given the tools and specialized training necessary to work with an increasingly diverse population.

Are the city's resources (funding, police, planning, recreation, etc.) allocated appropriately throughout its neighborhoods? Name any neighborhoods you feel receive too much or too little, and explain why.



Donna Kuzemchak

Donna Kuzemchak, candidate for Frederick Alderman

I was proud to be part of an administration that appointed Neighborhood Advisory Councils, giving residents in all areas of Frederick more influence in all aspects of city government.

With a more concentrated population, downtown needs more concentrated services.

Many parts of the city don't have enough parkland, want better roads, more code enforcement or more police presence.

NACs help address these issues systemically instead of trying to pit one neighborhood against another.

What's your view on the status of business and crime along Carroll Creek Linear Park? Is the city moving in the right direction when it comes to redeveloping this area?

Each administration favors funding different projects, and Carroll Creek went for many years with little city funding.

I'm proud to have been part of an administration that moved forward to fund public improvements along Carroll Creek. Economic development of the area is in its infancy, but I believe it will continue to grow more vibrant as development increases foot traffic.

Expanding funding for code enforcement and police is essential as Frederick becomes more urban.

What is the best plan for Hargett Farm?

The Hargett Farm should be developed into a self-sustaining regional park that will provide a great economic tool to help revitalize the Golden Mile.

Multipurpose fields, bike trails, an aquatic center and a community center should be part of this project.

Part of the property should be used for a solar energy field and a center to teach children and the general public about sustainability.

Like Carroll Creek, this is a long-term project.

The Frederick News-Post invited candidates in this year's Frederick mayor and Board of Aldermen election to give their thoughts on some of the city's issues. We will publish their responses over the next few weeks leading up to the Sept. 10 primary election.