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# StarNews

WILMINGTON, N.C.

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Historic Chess Arbor at Greenfield Lake dates to the 1930s. JOHN STATON/STARNEWS

## County to expand jail and animal shelter

**Daniel Sheehan**  
Wilmington StarNews  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Expansions are coming to the New Hanover County Detention Facility as the county works to overhaul its emergency response system.

The New Hanover County jail will undergo an expansion to increase capacity and increase services in anticipation of future needs, according to county documents. In 2008, the county purchased a 120-acre property on Blue Clay Road to serve the purpose, but it was later determined that it was no longer needed “due to efficiencies gained in jail diversion programs,” according to the county. The site was repurposed to make way for the Blue Clay Business Park, which welcomed its first tenants in late 2025.

The request for qualifications for the expansion project closed on Feb. 3. Now, the county will select a firm to complete the project. The first phase, which includes a concept plan and budget estimate, is anticipated to be completed by August 2026. A timeline for the second phase, which includes design and site work, has yet to be determined.

The project is still in the early stages, and the information included in the request for qualifications outlines the potential scope of the improvements. After further development, the plans will need to be reviewed and approved by the county.

### Hundreds of additional beds

While the design is still underway, the county has requested an additional 500 beds in the expansion. The facility currently has 672 beds, though 56 beds

See EXPAND, Page 5A

## SERIOUS DECLINE

### Wilmington residents raise alarm over worsening conditions at historic park

**Bob Liepa**  
Wilmington StarNews  
USA TODAY NETWORK

The natural beauty of the place is breathtaking. Towering trees surround a serene lake. Birds sing, ducks quack and the peaceful sounds of nature are heard. Every now and then someone can be seen jogging, cycling or walking along the park’s paths.

Greenfield Park is one of the most scenic places in Wilmington. The historic park, however, turned 100 last year.

Some fear the beloved urban oasis, as it has been referred to, is showing its age.

That is a concern E.J. Hanley has expressed. She conveyed her thoughts to the Wilmington City Council, saying Greenfield Park “has long been considered a city gem, and yet today that gem is severely tarnished. I have personally witnessed Greenfield Park’s serious decline over the past 10 years.”

Hanley’s issues are with the 4.8-mile multiuse trails, completed in 1978, that

See PARK, Page 5A



The Wilmington City Council heard from a woman who complained about broken pavement and root upheaval on Greenfield Park’s multiuse trails. A section of the trail as it looked on Feb. 12. BOB LIEPA/STARNEWS

## Brewery closure clouds future of downtown building

**John Staton**  
Wilmington StarNews  
USA TODAY NETWORK

The long, strange saga of Wilmington’s Edward Teach Brewing officially ended on Feb. 15, when the beleaguered business closed its doors after being open a little more than eight years.

What’s next for the historic building Edward Teach has occupied since 2017,

however, is another matter.

The building at 604 N. Fourth St., which New Hanover County property records lists as being owned by Edward Teach Holdings LLC, does not appear to have been listed for sale, and there’s no “for sale” sign outside the building.

The brewery didn’t return phone or email messages seeking comment.

Commercial real estate site LoopNet.com estimates the building’s size as 7,671

square feet. Property records indicated it was purchased in August of 2017 for \$1.1 million.

Located on a burgeoning spot of North Fourth Street that’s in the heart of what’s known as the Brooklyn Arts District, the brick building is nestled between the Brooklyn Arts Center events and concert venue to the south and the old railroad corridor that stretches like a valley to the north.

Another brewery moving in would seem to be a possibility, although there are lot more breweries to compete against in Wilmington than there were when Edward Teach opened in 2017. A restaurant could be another possibility. Renovations would likely be needed for the building to be used for retail or residential purposes.

See BUILDING, Page 6A

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