



# New Castle Crier

The official newsletter of New Castle City

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## Many citizens participate in design charrette

Turnout was great at the New Castle School auditorium, as interested citizens attended a design charrette to help shape what a proposal might look like for redeveloping New Castle's riverfront.

Citizens were provided information on some possible components of a redevelopment plan, such as:

- appropriate infrastructure installed to allow vessels like the Kalmar Nyckel to dock, and which could also allow docking for small (non-car carrying) ferries;
- a limited amount of daytime docking to enable boaters to patronize City shops and restaurants and engage in tourist activities;
- development of a permanent place for the Good Will Fire Co. to access their rescue boat.

It was noted that much of New Castle's long-history, spanning more than three centuries, includes the importance of the Delaware River to the community with varying levels of utilizing the River and shoreline for commerce and other activities.

It was also reported that this proposal originated as part of the City's updated Comprehensive Plan from 2009. The Plan was created by the City Planning Commission and recommended by that body to the City Council for adoption, which subsequently occurred. Included in that Plan is the following:

"The City should...conduct a more detailed waterfront plan to identify market needs and

strengthen the downtown's ties to the waterfront. Specific issues to address include:

- Appropriate business mix;
- Residential needs;
- Parking needs and potential supply solutions;
- Enhanced waterfront connections;
- Enhanced recreational opportunities."

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The next  
regular  
**City Council**  
meeting is 7 p.m.,  
Tues., Nov. 8 at  
Town Hall

### November Events

Saturday, November 5 ❖ Delaware Greenways

#### ☉ Barn and Breakfast ☉

Begins at 10 a.m. at the Historic Penn Farm  
Breakfast, Tours & the Annual Delaware Greenways Meeting  
\$15 individuals/\$25 couples (children free!)

Contact 655-7275 or [greenways@delawaregreenways.org](mailto:greenways@delawaregreenways.org)

Saturday, November 12 ❖ 6 to 8 p.m.

New Castle Historical Society

#### ☉ Annual Pledge Party ☉

A fun evening at Immanuel Parish Hall  
Harmony Street and The Strand

\$20/person ❖ For a Reservation, call the  
NCHS at 322-2794, or email [nchistorical@aol.com](mailto:nchistorical@aol.com)

Wine, beer, victuals and great company will  
make the evening one you won't want to miss!

Nov. 18 to 20: Fri., 6-9p; Sat., 11a-6p; Sun., 9a-5p

St. Peter's Church

#### ☉ Christmas Bazaar ☉

5th & Harmony Streets in the Gymnasium

Come celebrate the opening of our Winter Wonderland on Friday evening as **Santa Claus arrives on the fire truck** with his friends from Good Will at 6:30 p.m.! Saturday, **Santa will join us for lunch**; games to follow.

Items for sale include homemade crafts, candy, baked goods, religious goods, white elephant items and food.

Items for chance include a "Basket of Cheer" and a Grand Prize drawing for \$100, \$250 or \$500.

**Enjoy homemade spaghetti dinner, prepared by members of the St. Anthony Society, from Noon to 6 p.m. on Sunday; takeouts available.**

Donations can be brought to the Pastoral Center, Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## New Castle – The First Capital City!

The most picturesque and historic waterfront community on the East Coast!

## Code Enforcement Corner

Code Enforcement helps maintain and improve the quality of life of the City of New Castle by administering an unbiased enforcement program to correct violations of City zoning, property maintenance and building codes. This includes working with residents, neighborhoods, public service agencies and other City offices.

Complaint forms are available at the City offices or on the City Web site at: [www.NewCastleCity.org](http://www.NewCastleCity.org). To reach the Code Enforcement Officer, call 323-6081.

Complaints are handled on a confidential basis. If feedback and/or updates are requested, however, a name, address and phone number need to be provided with the complaint.

### **Common Property Issues:**

- Unregistered or inoperative motor vehicles
- Parking on front lawn areas
- Trash accumulation
- Lawn, shrubbery maintenance
- Indoor items stored outside
- No displayed house numbers
- Improperly stored trash/ recycle containers

### **Design charrette** *continued from front page*

Information was provided at the meeting on a number of items related to the Riverfront concerning City projects completed or in the works, such as:

- The City's recent purchase of 60 acres of Riverfront property from the Immanuel Episcopal Church – the Broad Dyke Natural Area – which is permanently preserved as open space and available for passive recreation purposes such as hiking and nature watching. This land purchase was funded through multiple grants from a number of partnering entities.

- A recent assessment performed on the condition of the City-owned Banks Building on the wharf, with plans to seek funding sources to rehabilitate the building.

- A current project in the vicinity of the New Castle Sailing Club at the southwest end of Battery Park, to develop a "living shoreline" – that is using shoreline stabilization techniques to create natural habitat to

## Timing, luck minimize Hurricane Irene impacts

Mother Nature spared most of Delaware from what could have been widespread devastating effects of gargantuan Hurricane Irene. Our small City sustained relatively minimal damage as a result of the wind and rain. A handful of streets and other areas were flooded, mostly as a result of the heavy rainfall. When the worst of the hurricane blew through this area the Delaware River was at or near low tide – a very lucky coincidence with the result of the River overflowing only slightly in a few areas.

Even though President Obama issued a disaster declaration for

**Were you prepared for Irene?  
For tips on hurricane preparation — what to do before, during and after a hurricane, go online to:  
[www.fema.gov/areyouready/hurricanes.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/areyouready/hurricanes.shtm)**

Delaware, due to the low total dollar amount of damage throughout all of New Castle County, the City was limited in what we could claim for reimbursement through FEMA. We recently completed the submittal process, with our claims totaling a little more than \$15,000, of which we are eligible to receive 75 percent reimbursement.

### **THANK YOU!**

To the group: the Real Charitable Housewives of Delaware, members and their children, who were recently joined by members of Daisy Troop 312 and Brownie Troop 172, of New Castle, who all volunteered to tackle beach clean-up in Battery Park.

### **IMPORTANT NOTE!**

#### **One Week Schedule Change Recycling/Yard Waste Pickup**

**Wednesday, Nov. 23**

**City-wide Recycling Pickup**

**Wednesday, Nov. 23**

**NO Yard Waste Pickup**

**Thursday, Nov. 24**

**City Offices Closed & NO Recycling Pickup**

**Friday, Nov. 25**

**City Offices Closed & NO Recycling Pickup**

protect the shoreline from erosion, while also providing critical wildlife habitat. This project was funded through a DNREC grant.

- Rehabilitation of the four dikes along New Castle's shoreline and riverfront: Buttonwood, Broad, Gamba-corta and Army Creek. The City lobbied to have the State provide funding and \$3 million is included in the current State budget to go towards this work.

At the meeting, proposed sketch plans were displayed and citizens were asked to review these and provide comments and ask questions. Further, a survey was distributed for participants to complete and return. The sketch plans are available for anyone to view on the City Web site ([www.NewCastleCity.org](http://www.NewCastleCity.org)) and are also on display in the New Castle Public Library.

In the survey, eight questions were asked about various components of the riverfront and possible redevelopment. A significant majority of the respondents for all questions favored the proposed ideas.