



New Castle Crier

The official newsletter of New Castle City

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New Castle, Delaware

April 2012

Council adopts Charter change resolution

On February 28, New Castle City Council members held the second of two public hearings on proposed City Charter changes, where all persons were given an opportunity to speak. The City Council unanimously approved a Resolution to forward the proposed changes to the Delaware General Assembly, requesting that they be adopted.

City residents were notified by mail about the proposed changes and when they could voice their opinions at two public hearings.

A number of changes are proposed to bring the Charter up-to-date, since a major revision has not occurred since the 1920s. Two of the changes are considered major, one being increasing the terms of office for all elected positions to four years, which would also result in staggered terms for the Council members. The other change would allow the Council, under limited conditions, to approve borrowing without holding a City-wide referendum.

An executive summary and the full text of the proposed new Charter can be found on the City Web site at NewCastleCity.Delaware.gov.

2012 Spring Hydrant Flushing Program

The Municipal Services Commission (MSC) Water Department will begin the Spring Fire Hydrant Flushing Program on Monday, April 9. Flushing will occur Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., taking approximately 10 business days.

The Program is important to the water system and is an integral part of the MSC's goal to deliver the safest and highest quality water possible. Additionally, it improves fire protection by testing the operation of hydrants.

The MSC schedules the flushing program during early spring and late fall when demands are lower, using a carefully planned route to control the direction of flow in the system. Customers should not experience service interruptions during the flushing process.

The flushing process may cause some temporary water

discoloration. There is no health hazard associated with the discolored water. If you notice discolored water, run several cold water taps at the same time until the water is clear. Avoid using hot water and doing laundry until you are sure the water is clear. The MSC urges all residents to exercise caution while traveling around the hydrant flushing crews as water may accumulate in the flushing area.

Your understanding and cooperation during this process is appreciated. If you have questions or would like additional information, call the Water Department at 323-2333, between 7 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

The next
regular
City Council
meeting is 7 p.m.,
Tues., April 10 at
Town Hall

**Good Friday Holiday
City Offices CLOSED**

**Friday, April 6
No Recycling Pickup
City-Wide Recycling Will
Occur Thursday, April 5**

Apply now for property tax exemptions

Applications are now being accepted for the Over 65 or Disability property tax exemption. To make an appointment, at the convenience of the taxpayer, call Marian Delaney at 322-9811.

The maximum yearly income requirements are \$15,000 for a single person and \$30,000 for a married couple. Social Security income is not counted toward the minimum. The last day to apply is June 15th.

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 New Castle City residents 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: NewCastleCity.Delaware.gov. 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.

Please help the City control wildlife problems...

1. Make sure all garbage is secured in covered plastic or metal trash containers.
2. Do not feed wild animals.
3. Do not allow any water accumulation, especially overnight.
4. Keep yards clean and mowed and cleared of any debris including compost, piles of wood, lumber, rocks and junk. Also, clean outdoor grills regularly.

5. Eliminate all protective cover. Clear any brush areas or hedge rows.
6. Close up any open areas that provide access under structures, porches or decks that could be used as potential den sites.
7. Clean up any accumulated pet food, bird seed, fruits or vegetables.
8. If there is any evidence of a den, make sure the animals are gone and fill the hole with dirt and rocks. Sprinkle flour on the ground to detect tracks.
9. If your yard has a grub or other subsoil insect problem, these are a feast for skunks.

If you or your pet is sprayed by a skunk, there is an effective mix to clean the oil:

- baking soda, one quarter cup;
- dish soap or no-tears pet shampoo, one teaspoon;
- hydrogen peroxide, one quart of 3%.

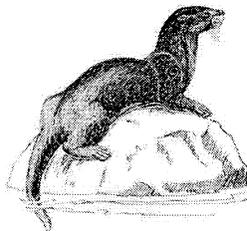
Mix and apply while mixture is bubbling, then rinse. Repeat as needed. Do not try to store in a container. Baking soda-peroxide mix is volatile. This mixture can bleach fur and hair color.

Mild acid juices, such as tomato or lemon, are reportedly effective, as well as vinegar.

Raccoons and skunks may carry rabies and distemper. Keep pet vaccinations up-to-date.

There's a new varmint in Delaware!

Nutria are South American semi-aquatic rodents similar to native muskrat and beaver. An invasive nutria population has been confirmed in the west central part of the State of Delaware. Marshes are their preferred habitats and they are very destructive, eating marsh vegetation and leaving behind only mud flats.



Residents can report nutria sightings to the Nuisance Wildlife Hotline at 1-877-463-6497. More information about nutria and efforts to remove them can be found online, search for the, "Chesapeake Bay Nutria Eradication Project."

See the "Upcoming Events" section on the City Web site at NewCastleCity.Delaware.gov for details on more exciting events happening in the City during April!

April Events

Saturday, April 7 from 10 a.m. to Noon

Presbyterian Church, 25 E. 2nd Street

☛Easter Fair & Easter Egg Hunt☚

Free! featuring crafts, activities and refreshments!

Egg Hunt starts 11 a.m.

For more information call 328-3279, or online go to:
www.newcastlepreschurch.org

Saturday, April 28 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

☛Annual Yard Sale on the Green☚

Hosted by the Historic New Castle Alliance

For more information call 1-888-613-6665, or online:
www.historicnewcastle.org

Sunday, April 22 at 1:00 and 3:30 p.m.

Buena Vista, 661 S. Dupont Hwy.

☛ The Way We Wore ☚

Hosted by the New Castle Historical Society and the Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

Plan on attending this exciting and educational program on the history of women's fashion, produced by Delaware historical costume enthusiast Karen Jessee. "The Way We Wore" features 19th and 20th century original and reproduction garments from private collections and the New Castle Historical Society, tracing the changing fashion trends of American women (choose one of the two times to attend).

Guests will also be treated to a variety of sumptuous chocolates, delicious champagne and sparkling cider.

Tickets are \$30 and are available through the New Castle Historical Society at 322-2794 or www.newcastlehistory.org.