



New Castle Crier

The official newsletter of New Castle City

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New Castle, Delaware

December 2011

New and improved City Web site design provided by State

The City of New Castle recently launched a newly designed Web site. The site has a new look and is loaded with information for residents and visitors. The new site has improved navigation and is aimed at being ultra user-friendly.

Last January, the New Castle City Council reviewed a range of proposals for updating the site. These included the possibility of contracting with a private vendor for the work and paying for a prototype City site which had already been developed. Costs for those options were wide-ranging and as much as \$20,000.

City Council members selected the Delaware Government Information Center (GIC) to revamp the City's site. Since this is a

department of the State of Delaware, no City tax dollars were expended in development of the updated site.

The GIC has helped a number of Delaware municipalities develop Web sites — either from scratch or with updated designs. The City of New Castle is the largest community (population-wise) to which the GIC has provided these services.

There are a number of advantages the City enjoys having their site with the GIC. For example, Web hosting is provided by the State, so this is a cost savings to the City. The GIC also provides training to City employees, who now have the ability to directly edit the site and upload information. Not only does this add to the cost

savings, but may greatly increase the speed at which items of importance can be placed online.

The City wishes to especially thank the GIC team for all their efforts. Kudos also to City staff in Finance and Administration for their efforts, and of course to the Mayor and Council members who supported City personnel working along with GIC to develop a new and improved City Web site.

Note, the updated site has a new address:

NewCastleCity.Delaware.gov.

Persons accessing the former address will be automatically redirected. Frequent visitors may want to update their bookmarks or favorites.

December Events

Sunday, December 4 at 4 p.m.

New Castle Presbyterian Church

☛ **The Messiah** ☛

25 East Second Street

Presented by the Choir and Friends of the Church

Come enjoy this special performance of The Messiah by G. F. Handel. The Messiah is considered to be Handel's most successful and well known oratorio and was composed in 1741 in 24 days. Part One (The Christmas Section) will be presented and the performance will conclude with the ever popular "Hallelujah Chorus" from Part Two. Soloists for this performance are Lisa Raker, Sarah McCann, Ellie Gerhart, Minerva Lermond, Jay Williams, Bill Anthony and Bruce Raker and will be directed by Eileen Dunham and accompanied by guest organist, Melissa Heieie. Please come and join us for this exciting musical event, followed by light refreshments.

Saturday, December 10 at 10 a.m.

New Castle Presbyterian Church

☛ **11th Annual Spirit of Christmas** ☛
Homes open throughout the Historic District

This year's Spirit of Christmas celebration features:

- Private home tours in Historic New Castle, several dating as far back as the 1700s.
- Some of the finest music that Delaware has to offer.

This event is presented by the New Castle Presbyterian Church and the New Castle Visitor's Bureau. Doors at the church's Christian Education Building open at 10 a.m. Additionally, many historic homes throughout the Historic District of New Castle will be open from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The homes, including the Lesley Manor Mansion, will be open and free to the public. The day's celebration will be capped

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New Castle – The First Capital City!

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

Spirit of Christmas

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off with the annual tree lighting ceremony on the Center Green at 5 p.m. (behind the Town Hall on Delaware Street).

Programs for self-guided tours will be available at the New Castle Presbyterian Church's Christian Education Building, 25 East Second Street, beginning at 9:30 a.m. The Spirit of Christmas 2011 event will support Friendship House's homeless shelters.

Celebrations of Christmas and the holiday season will take place

throughout New Castle, including the private homes, churches, and museums open to the public and decorated for the season.

The Meeting House and Christian Education Building of the 354-year old Presbyterian Church will host musical events throughout the day. Also featured will be the fine art photography of Carlo Viola in sets of greeting cards, which will be available for purchase.

Other events include hand bell concerts in the sanctuary at 1 and 1:30 p.m., followed by the New Ark Chorale at 3 p.m. The Meeting

House will be open for guided tours from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

A Santa's Secret Shop will be available for children at the Velocipede Museum located at 414 Delaware Street from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., where the children are invited to shop and visit with Santa. There will also be a children's free ornament-making workshop.

Various restaurants will be open throughout the day, and free homemade cookies and hot and cold beverages will be served at New Castle Presbyterian Church's Christian Education Building.

For more information, call the New Castle Presbyterian Church office at 328-3279, visit:

www.newcastlepreschurch.org, or go to Facebook and search for "Spirit of Christmas Sharing our Gifts".

IMPORTANT NOTICE!

City Offices Closed Fri., 12/23; Mon., 12/26; Mon., 1/2

Schedule Change for Trash & Recycling Pickup

Thurs., Dec. 22	City-Wide Recycling Pickup
Fri., Dec. 23	<u>NO</u> Recycling Pickup
Mon., Dec. 26	<u>NO</u> Trash Pickup
Tues., Dec. 27	Trash Pickup for Monday customers
Wed., Dec. 28	Trash Pickup for Tuesday customers
Mon., Jan. 2	<u>NO</u> Trash Pickup
Tues., Jan. 3	Trash Pickup for Monday customers
Wed., Jan. 4	Trash Pickup for Tuesday customers

Best wishes to everyone for safe and happy holidays!

The next
regular
City Council
meeting is 7 p.m.,
Tues., Dec. 13 at
Town Hall

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: 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.

Common Issues:

1. Do not mix grass cuttings and leaves for loose pick up at curb.

2. Property owners are responsible for snow or ice removal 24 hours after the end of a storm. The minimum path width is three feet.

3. It is a violation of the City Code to do any work to a City tree. This is the sole responsibility of the City through the Tree Commission.

4. All vacant properties in the City must be registered annually.

5. Any vehicle that is unregistered, inoperable, wrecked, dismantled or missing major components cannot be parked or stored on any City Street or on private property, other than within a fully enclosed structure. A tarp or vehicle cover does not qualify as an enclosed structure.

6. Please secure trash so it will not be scattered by animals or weather.

7. Immediately clean up after pets.

8. Good, thorough and sanitary yard clean up will help reduce the likelihood of plant disease problems in the spring.