



# New Castle Crier

The official newsletter of New Castle City

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## New Castle City Police offer variety of outreach programs

The New Castle City Police Department offers several outreach programs for the public. Listed below are brief descriptions of a few of the programs and other community relations services provided by the Department.

**For a complete list of programs, visit the Police Web site at [www.newcastlepd.us](http://www.newcastlepd.us).**

The New Castle Police welcome community-minded ideas or suggestions from the public. Send them via e-mail to Police Chief Kevin McDerby at: [kevin.mcderby@cj.state.de.us](mailto:kevin.mcderby@cj.state.de.us).

### *Outreach presentations*

The Department has put together slide show presentations on topics such as Stranger Danger, Identity Theft, Sex Offender-Megan's Law for Day Care Providers and a Gun Safety presentation given by the Department's Officer, "R-U-Safe" robot, which is able to interact with children.

### *Community meetings*

The New Castle Police hold public meetings the first Wednesday of every other month at 7 p.m. in the Community Room at the Police

Department, 1 Municipal Blvd., off Wilmington Road. The next meeting is March 7.

During the meetings, citizens may speak with and voice concerns to the Chief of Police and his command staff about issues they have in their neighborhoods or any other public safety item. There is no need to call ahead, anyone who wishes to attend the meetings is welcome.

For more information and questions on these presentations, or to offer other suggested presentations, please contact the Department at 322-9800.

## Remember changes in rules for yard waste collection!

The State has banned yard waste from being disposed of at the landfill where the City of New Castle dumps our garbage. Therefore, even though the City will continue to provide its residents with yard waste pickup, new rules apply.

### *What is yard waste?*

Yard waste is grass clippings, leaves, brush and branches up to six inches in diameter, dirt-free garden debris and landscape trimmings.

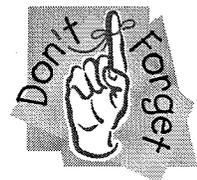
### *When does the City collect yard waste?*

Yard waste is collected seasonally, **Wednesdays only**. Collection this year begins on April 4.

### *What are the yard waste restrictions?*

**Positively no mixture of yard waste with household trash will be collected. All yard waste**

**must be kept separate from household trash.** Violators will be issued citations and fined in accordance with provisions of the City Code.



### *Where can I find more information?*

A more extensive article on the changes for yard waste collection was included with the February issue of the *New Castle Crier* newsletter. The newsletter can be viewed online at: [www.newcastlecity.org](http://www.newcastlecity.org).

More information is also available on the DNREC Web site at [www.dnrec.delaware.gov](http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov).

Persons with questions about the changes for yard waste should call the Public Works Section of the Public Services Department, at 322-9813.

# New Castle - The First Capital City!

# Board of Building Appeals reactivated to help City deal with dilapidated buildings

In an effort to deal with unsafe (and often unsightly) structures, the Board of Building Appeals has been reactivated. The five-member Board has met to discuss the process contained in the City Code to allow the City to have these type of properties improved.

Ideally, this would be done with the City working in conjunction with the property owner. In extreme cases, however, with owners who are absent and/or uncooperative, the City may contract for improvements on such a structure. Once work is completed, the City would place a lien on the property, allowing the City to recoup its investment when the property sells.

This process involves a Code Official initially contacting the property owner. The City informs the owner what deficiencies have been identified for the property in question.

The issue then goes to the Board of Building Appeals. This occurs in the event of no response from the property owner, or if the property owner disagrees with the assessment of the City official. At a hearing, presentations are made and the Board members determine if the initial assessment of the City is valid and may be acted upon.

If the Board of Building Appeals deems that improvements are to be made, then the owner

## Property Tax Exemptions

For information on applying for the Over 65 or Disability exemption, call Marian Delaney at 322-9811. Yearly income requirements: \$12,500 single and \$25,000 married. Social Security is not counted. Last day to apply is June 15th.

would still have an opportunity to do what is required within a certain time period.

Without owner cooperation, however, the City may hire a contractor to perform the work, and subsequently place the property lien.

At the City Council meeting in February, a Resolution was approved, adopting the official rules under which the Board of Building Appeals will operate. Prior to the Board holding a hearing, it had been required for the rules to be established.

## Code Enforcement Corner

The City of New Castle Board of Health strives to keep properties in conformance with adopted rules and codes. To report any problems or file a complaint, please call 302-323-6081.

Listed below are some of the more pertinent policies.

### *Regulations for trash and containers*

Non-residents must not bring trash into the City. Residents must not allow others to deposit trash within the City for disposal. Trash for each collection shall not exceed two 36-gallon containers with self-sealing lids. Each can shall be no more than 50 pounds. It is helpful if all trash is placed inside strong, tied plastic bags. It is prohibited to include human waste in the trash disposal system. Yard waste is also now banned from being included with household trash for disposal. Yard waste must be separated from household trash, and will be picked up by City crews on Wednesdays only.

### *Exterior storage of debris prohibited*

All items of debris are prohibited from being stored on the exterior of all properties.

### *Restrictions in place for parking on grass, lawns*

Vehicles may not be parked on grass or lawn, and are to be parked on hardened surfaces.

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

### Election Reminders

Applications for  
Absentee Ballots  
Available Beginning:  
March 7

Deadline to Submit  
Absentee Ballot:  
Noon on April 13

City Election:  
Saturday, April 14  
8 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Good-Will Fire Co.

Looking for contact information for a City official or service?  
See the listing in the City Calendar for the month of February.