



New Castle Crier

The official newsletter of New Castle City

Vol. 4, Iss. 2

New Castle, Delaware

March 2010

Share your vision for the City's future

Community workshop will help shape key redevelopment areas

The process for planning New Castle's future continues at a special workshop meeting, discussing redevelopment areas identified in the City's Comprehensive Plan. Residents are urged to attend and voice their opinions.

The meeting will be held at the New Castle (former Middle) School, 903 Delaware St., at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 16.

With the Comprehensive Plan adopted by the City in 2009, the next step is to reshape the current City Code — mainly zoning regulations and maps — to match the changes in the Plan from what had been adopted in 2003. The first phase of these

changes will focus on key redevelopment areas. They are the Ferry Cut-Off area and the area of 7th and South Streets.

For the Ferry Cut-Off, the Comprehensive Plan suggests that this area, "...offers the opportunity to be redeveloped as a new, pedestrian-oriented neighborhood commercial district, providing primarily local goods and services and presenting a gateway worthy of the City of New Castle.

For the area of 7th and South Streets, the plan envisions, "...this area as a new residential neighborhood, extending the character and scale of the historic district. This area could become a new, dynamic extension of downtown with a mix of residential, retail and office uses."

Council convenes in special and rescheduled meetings

City Council members met in three special meetings on Jan. 29, Feb. 4 and 5, to discuss the \$1.3 million funding for three stormwater projects approved by voters in October. The special meetings were needed as new information about the project costs became available and the City was under a tight deadline to meet Federal rules for stimulus funding. Agendas for the special meetings were posted in accordance with the State's Freedom Of Information Act.

The stimulus funding will cover half of the original \$1.3 million costs. The remaining half is a loan to be repaid by the City over five years at a 2 percent interest rate.

When construction bids for the projects were recently opened, the actual costs were very different from the original engineer estimates, with two projects over and one under. The net difference is an increase in cost of about \$388,000. City Council members approved a resolution committing to

continue with the projects, and to fund the added amount from the following sources:

Trustees of the	
New Castle Common	\$194,000
New Castle Conservation District	\$ 97,000
Green Stone Engineering	\$ 10,000
New Castle City Funds	\$ 87,000

Unless other funding sources are found, the City funds will have to come from existing savings or be budgeted in the future, since the voter-approved loan is limited to the \$1.3 million. Work on the projects will begin this spring.

Solid waste discussions continue

Due to severe weather, the City Council meeting planned for Thurs., Feb. 11 was rescheduled to Fri., Feb. 12. City Council members discussed the proposal to change solid waste collection from two trash pick-ups per week to one trash and one recycling collection.

continued on back page

New Castle - The First Capital City!

Solid waste changes

continued from front page

The Council reviewed citizen comments about the proposal. A large majority of comments received so far favor the change, especially since it will double recycling pickups.

Council members support this change, which would become effective on July 1. Existing City forces will perform

both collections, saving tax dollars through vendor contract elimination.

Council members also discussed charging individuals to obtain recycling carts after July 1, estimating that cost at about \$45 each. Through mid-June, however, any household without a recycling container can order one through the City at no charge by calling 322-9801.

★ **Grand Reopening
of the New Castle
PUBLIC LIBRARY!**
Sat., March 20 • 10 to 5
424 Delaware Street
Free and open to all.

Contact the City Administrator to comment on the proposed change, at the City offices, by fax (322-9814) or e-mail to: CathrynThomas@NewCastleCity.org

Important Reminder!

Please clear snow around fire hydrants to make them accessible from the street (a three-foot radius is ideal)! An accessible hydrant saves firefighters time and can save lives and property!

The next
regular
**City Council
meeting is 7 p.m.,
Tues., March 9 at
Town Hall**

City and MSC workers do it again!

The February 5 weekend snow storm was one for the history books – 27-inches of snowfall, accompanied by howling winds creating monster drifts. City Public Works and MSC crews relentlessly battled the storm, some working

20-hour shifts to keep the streets of New Castle open for travel.

Round two came a few days later and the dedicated crews were back at work again. Comparative reports from other areas confirmed the outstanding work these devoted New Castle public servants performed.

Hats off to them all!

Apply now for property tax exemptions

Apply now for the Over 65 or Disability property tax exemption. For an appointment, at the convenience of the taxpayer, call Marian Delaney at 322-9811. The maximum yearly income limits 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.

Show your New Castle pride and complete the 2010 Census!

In 2010, the U.S. Census Bureau will count every person living in our nation.

Completing your census form helps ensure our community gets its share of funding for essential services such as new roads, child-care and senior centers, schools, etc.

The information you provide is safe. By law, the Census Bureau cannot share respondents' answers with anyone, including other federal agencies and law enforcement entities.

Watch for your census form to arrive in March.

We move forward when you send it back. To learn more, visit 2010census.gov.

Code Enforcement Corner

The New Castle City Board of Health strives to keep properties in compliance with rules and codes. To report problems or file a complaint, call Code Enforcement Officer John Lloyd at 221-6507. Complaint forms are available on the City Web site at: www.NewCastleCity.org.

This month's Code reminders...

Snow: Due to the recent extraordinary snowstorms, we wish to reinforce that residents/owners are responsible for cleaning sidewalks within 24 hours after the end of a snow/ice storm. Three feet is the required minimum path width.

Animals: Owners are required to immediately clean up after their animals whether on their own property or on other private or public property.

Note: In the City of New Castle, the SPCA enforces the New Castle County Code which has a leash provision.