



New Castle Crier

The official newsletter of New Castle City

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New Castle, Delaware

September 2010

Public to comment on zoning change proposals

The City has scheduled a public hearing to consider changes to the City Zoning Code. The changes are the first in what will likely be a series of changes to the City Code to match what was adopted in the updated Comprehensive Plan last year. Residents are urged to attend the hearing and voice their opinions.

The public hearing will be held at the New Castle Senior Center, 400 South Street, at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 23.

Most of the changes which are the subject of the hearing 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."

A community visioning workshop was held mid-March, with a number of residents attending and expressing their opinions on how they en-

visioned these areas would take shape, given the general direction provided by the Comprehensive Plan. As a result, draft Code changes were developed by City Planning Consultant Marian Hull, working together with City Solicitor Roger Akin.

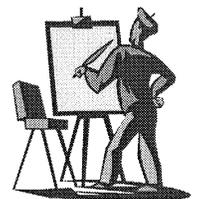
The Planning Commission reviewed the draft changes and provided input. Subsequently, the Planning Commission recommended that the City Council approve the Code changes. Since this involves amending the City Code, the City must follow the ordinance process, which includes a public hearing, three readings of the proposed ordinance and approval of the Mayor. At the meeting on September 23, the public hearing will be held and depending on input from those in attendance, the City Council may proceed with the first and second readings of the ordinance.

Complete copies of the proposed Zoning Code changes are available at the City Administration office, or the documents may be viewed online at the City Web site at: www.NewCastleCity.org.

Lions 40th "Art on the Green"

The New Castle Hundred Lions Club will hold its Annual "Art on the Green" event on Sept. 25 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Battery Park. The Club will celebrate its 40th Annual art and craft show.

This year's show plans to be a gala event. Three artists: Mary Foster, Rita Trimmer and Denise Brzoska, have participated in all 40 AOG shows and more than 200 booth spaces have been assigned. Free parking and shuttle bus service are provided at First Baptist Church and New Castle (former Middle) School. Refreshments will be available.



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The next regular City Council meeting is 7 p.m., Tues., Sept. 14 at Town Hall

New Castle - The First Capital City!

MSC joins City, Trustees in funding stormwater projects

Commissioners of the Municipal Services Commission (MSC) approved helping to fund stormwater projects under construction in the City. Council President William Barthel attended a MSC meeting to explain the scope of the projects and their importance to the entire New Castle community. After the meeting, the City was informed that \$50,000 was approved to be provided toward the project costs from the MSC.

About 40 percent of projects' costs, which total \$1.7 million, are being constructed with funding from the Federal stimulus program. The other roughly 60 percent of the cost is the responsibility of the City.

Of that portion, \$650,000 will be paid back through a 2 percent loan. That loan was overwhelmingly approved by New Castle voters last October.

The remaining \$400,000 are direct costs to be paid as the projects conclude construction. Other partners helping to fund

that portion of costs are the New Castle Conservation District and Green Stone Engineering.

Three main projects, broken into six construction contracts, have been under various stages of construction for the past several months. They include:

- City-Wide Stormwater Management Facility Retrofit;
- Washington Park Mitigation, Nutrient Reduction and Habitat Enhancement;
- Buttonwood Dike Flood Mitigation, Nutrient Reduction and Habitat Enhancement.

The City targeted the three projects to improve local flood protection, boost stormwater management, create new wetlands and improve water quality of runoff flowing into the Delaware River from City streets, parking lots, business parks and neighborhoods.

Recent actions of Federal and State governments show them placing high priority on improved practices for stormwater management and runoff.

Current and proposed future regulations mandate local governments to comply with higher standards, which require major construction or reconstruction of stormwater facilities. The New Castle City Council saw an opportunity to be proactive to address these issues, while at the same time saving significant City taxpayer dollars by taking advantage of the stimulus program.

The City is thankful to MSC for providing funding toward these important community improvements. They are added to the list of those to whom the City is grateful for financial assistance, with a special mention of the Trustees of the New Castle Common for their early and significant support of the projects. The New Castle community is unique, with these beneficial examples of intermunicipal cooperation and public/private partnerships at work to benefit the entire City.

Code Enforcement Corner

To file a complaint with Code Enforcement, forms are available at the City offices or on the City Web site at www.NewCastleCity.org. 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.

This month's highlights and general reminders...

- Most home improvement projects require a New Castle City Building Permit. All necessary permits must be obtained by the homeowner or contractor prior to the job proceeding. This includes applications to the Historic Area Commission (HAC) required for properties located within the Historic District. Penalties are imposed for permits obtained after work has commenced.
- All businesses/contractors working in the City must obtain a New Castle City Business License prior to working in the City. Homeowners should ensure that their contractors are properly licensed and insured before commencing any work.

*Call 322-9813 for questions on
Business Licenses or Building and HAC Permits.*

Art on the Green 9/25

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The Lions have been serving the New Castle Community since 1947. Eye glass donations will be accepted at the information booth the day of the show. Call 328-LION (5466) for additional information.

Coming October 9!

**Historic New Castle
Kitchen to Garden Tour
and Farmers Market
Saturday, October 9**

Walking Tours:

9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Farmers Market on the Green:

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Sponsored by the New Castle Library

Friends to benefit the Library.

**Purchase tickets at the Library or
www.NewCastleLibraryFriends.org.**