



New Castle Crier

The official newsletter of New Castle City

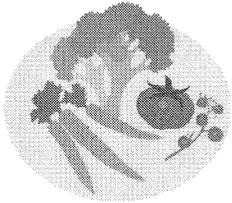
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New Castle, Delaware

January 2011

City receives grant for wellness initiative

Delaware Greenways and the City of New Castle are embarking on an exciting new wellness initiative aimed at improving the health and physical fitness of residents living within and surrounding the City of New Castle. The Delaware Division of Public Health has just recently awarded a grant to help fund the development of a wellness plan to increase active lifestyles and healthy eating.



Under the leadership of Delaware Greenways and City

government, a wellness team will be created to include representation from schools, health care, economic development, business owners, urban planners, community centers, churches, elected officials and civic associations.



This expanded community partnership will participate in a planning process to assess the City's infrastructure for walking and bicycling, address the health needs of the residents, solicit ideas for improvement and develop a plan to improve wellness opportunities for the community.

Additionally, Delaware Greenways and the Trustees are in the planning phases of a walking and biking trail system providing recreational and fitness opportunities designed to interconnect suburban communities to the City of New Castle and the Penn Farm.

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Best wishes to all for a Happy and Safe 2011 from City elected officials and employees!

File now to run in City election

Monday, January 3 is the first day for candidates to file to run for elected City offices. The City Election is scheduled for Saturday, April 9.

Elections will be for Mayor, Council President, four Council seats, City Treasurer and City Clerk. Various filing fees apply. Candidate filing forms are available at the City Office at 220 Delaware Street.

The last day to file to run, or withdraw, is Friday, February 25.

The next regular City Council meeting is 7 p.m., Tues., Jan. 11 at Town Hall

City Offices Closed with No Trash Pickup on Monday, January 17
Revised Trash Pickup Schedule:

Regular Schedule

Jan. 17

Jan. 18

Revised Schedule

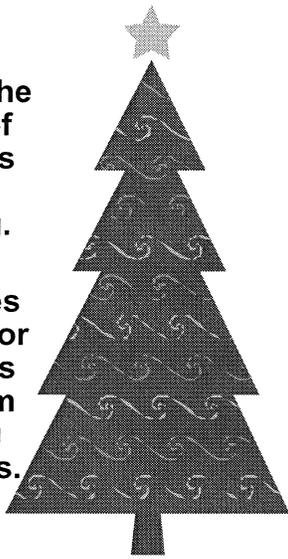
Jan. 18

Jan. 19

New Castle - The First Capital City!

The City provides the service of Christmas Tree recycling.

Place trees curbside for City crews to perform chipping operations.



City awarded \$100,000 grant for living shoreline

The City was recently informed by the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (DNREC) that we were successful in obtaining a \$100,000 grant to develop plans for a living shoreline along the banks of the Delaware River. The living shoreline concept uses natural

features to address erosion by providing long-term protection, restoration or enhancement of vegetated shoreline habitats. This is accomplished through strategic placement of plants, stone, sand fill and other structural or organic materials.

The benefits of a living shoreline include:

- Reducing bank erosion and property loss;
- Providing an attractive natural appearance;
- Improving marine habitat;
- Improving water quality and clarity.

The development area is in Battery Park near the Sailing Club. The grant funding is for planning and engineering.

Once that is completed, the City hopes to find a grant program to help fund construction. DNREC officials also hope that what is developed in New Castle can serve as a model statewide.

Wellness

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This wellness initiative will be kicking into high gear in early January starting with the formation of the wellness team and advisory committee. As our initiative gets underway, information will be updated on Delaware Greenways and the City's Web sites. We look forward to laying the groundwork for a model opportunity to advance wellness and healthy lifestyles for our City. We encourage your participation and welcome your involvement along the way to a healthier New Castle.

Apply now for property tax exemptions

Beginning in January is the new cycle for citizens to apply 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.

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.

To reach the Code Enforcement Officer, call 323-6081. Complaint 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...

- Citizens are required to contact the Tree Commission whenever they wish to alter, trim, remove or affect any street tree.
- Property owners are responsible for repairs of sidewalks.
- Trash and trash containers must not be placed for pick up prior to 6 p.m. the day before scheduled pick up and must be removed from the street by the end of the day after pickup.
- Advance arrangements and payment are required for "Special Trash" to be collected on regular trash days.
- Homeowners are responsible for snow and ice removal on the sidewalk in front of their properties within 24 hours of the end of a storm.