



New Castle Crier

The official newsletter of New Castle City

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New Castle, Delaware

March 2011

City opens Dobbinsville substation

On February 5, the City hosted an opening ceremony for the Dobbinsville Police Substation. A number of residents from the neighborhood and

other parts of the City attended along with local, County and State officials.

The idea originated with Police Chief Kevin McDerby, after the City took possession of an abandoned building at 7-1/2 Center Street. City Council members supported the con-

cept and formulated a plan to convert the building.

City police hope to enhance their partnership with Dobbinsville residents to foster positive relationships and help fight crime.

The interior was renovated with an area for City personnel to work and a computer room. The substation will be staffed periodically in the day and evenings by police officers and volunteers.

Plans are to have the computers available to area children for homework and other purposes and also providing computer access for adults.

Important City Election Dates

Sat., April 9 City Election

Polls Open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
New Castle Senior Center
400 South Street

Fri., March 25, 7 to 9 p.m.
In-Person Voter
Registration
Town Hall
201 Delaware Street

Sat., Mar. 26, 9 a.m. to Noon
Apply In-Person for an
Absentee Ballot
City Admin. Building
220 Delaware Street

Mon., April 4, 7 to 9 p.m.
Apply In-Person for an
Absentee Ballot
City Admin. Building

Fri., April 8 at Noon
Deadline for Submitting
Absentee Ballots
City Admin. Building

The next
regular
City Council
meeting is 7 p.m.,
Tues., March 8 at
Town Hall

March Historical Society Events

New Castle Historical Society Annual Meeting Wed., March 2, 7 p.m., Court House Museum

Florence Davis, curator of the upcoming exhibit on the Civil War in New Castle, will present a brief program about the war's impact in New Castle. The annual meeting and lecture are free and open to the public.

Music, Martinis & Monte Carlo!

Sat., March 19, 7 p.m., New Castle Senior Center

Join the New Castle Historical Society (NCHS) for a brand new fundraising event featuring great food, music, dancing and gaming. Win prizes to help support the NCHS. Admission is \$65 per person or \$120 per couple. Each ticket includes \$50 in gaming chips. Tickets are limited, so call right away to make your reservation, 322-2794.

New Castle - The First Capital City!

\$200,000 received for Church land purchase

An official from the Delaware Land and Water Conservation Trust Fund recently informed the City that it was successful in obtaining a grant award of \$200,000 for 2011 towards the purchase of a 60-acre parcel on the Delaware River.

The parcel includes wetlands and the Broad Dyke Creek. Local New Castilians are familiar with the property in the northeastern portion of the City which has been owned for centuries by the Immanuel Episcopal Church.

This is the third major grant awarded for this land purchase. Grant funding of an additional \$200,000 had already been secured in 2010 from the same State source and also funding has been approved from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Coastal Wetlands Grant program. That grant was for \$800,000, awarded to the DE Division of Fish & Wildlife. As part of that grant program, the City will be placing a conservation easement on the property to ensure indefinitely its preservation as open space.

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...

As spring approaches and owners contemplate exterior repairs and upgrades to their properties, property owner in the Historic District are reminded of their responsibilities to the historic integrity of the City.

It is required that any exterior repair, maintenance, renovation, remodel, addition or new construction be reviewed and approved by the Historic Area Commission. Applications can be submitted at the City Building Department, 900 Wilmington Road.

The New Castle Historic Area Guidelines and Standards Handbook and the Supplemental Workbook are available for review online at www.NewCastleCity.org, at the New Castle Library and at the City Building Department.

Owners are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the requirements and responsibilities set forth in the Historic Area Guidelines.

The Delaware Solid Waste Authority (DSWA) has donated to the City 200 Yard Waste Carts no longer in use by the DSWA. These carts are available, one per household, first come/first served, to New Castle residents by calling 322-9804. Carts will be delivered by City forces until all 200 have been distributed and this give-away program will end. Carts are similar to large (65 gal.) recycle carts.

Apply now for property tax exemptions

Applications are now being accepted 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.

**Daylight Savings Time Begins March 13
Spring Ahead And...**

**Change Your Clock
Change Your Batteries
Smoke Detectors Save Lives!**