



New Castle Crier

The official newsletter of New Castle City

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New Castle, Delaware

April 2011

Introducing the New Castle Wellness Initiative

This April the New Castle Community will have its first health checkup, not conducted by a doctor, but by members of the community. This assessment is the first phase of the City of New Castle Community

Wellness Initiative and will involve surveying, documenting, and identifying how the policies, infrastructure and systems currently in place in New Castle are promoting or inhibiting healthy lifestyles.

community including schools, work sites, health care organizations and community organizations and institutions. Delaware Greenways—the non-profit organization managing the Initiative—will be working with a Wellness Team of community leaders to gain information about existing policies and infrastructure throughout the the above sectors.

If you are approached for an interview, survey or other assessment, please participate, as the brief amount of time spent will be valuable in the effort to improve the vitality of the community.

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Once those opportunities and impediments are identified, a Wellness Action Plan will be created to guide action across all sectors that will encourage and enable better health. The end goal of the New Castle Wellness Initiative is to improve the health of residents, students and workers by making it easier to live healthier lifestyles.

The Wellness Initiative will require engagement across the

The next
regular
City Council
meeting is 7 p.m.,
Tues., April 12 at
Town Hall

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

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

April Events

New Castle Sailing Club Beach Clean-Up

9 a.m. to Noon, Saturday, April 9 (rain or shine)

All Volunteers Welcome

Sign-in at the Table in Battery Park near Third & South Streets
Trash Bags and Gloves Provided

Sponsored by the Sailing Club and the City of New Castle

Historic New Castle Alliance 3rd Annual Yard Sale on the Green Saturday, April 30, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Listings Available for Private Yard Sales throughout the City in conjunction with this event.

Yard Sale registration forms at the New Castle Court

House Museum, Penn's Place, Traders Cove or by e-mail.

For more information call 323-4453 or e-mail Cynthia.Snyder@state.de.us.

New Castle - The First Capital City!

Community Wellness Initiative

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In communities across the country that have completed assessments, created wellness plans, and begun implementation, the efforts are paying off. The City of Albert Lea, Minnesota embarked on a wellness initiative in early 2009, with strong and diverse community participation. Only a few years after starting the project, preliminary monitoring has shown that on average, a participant in the program has added 3.1 years to his/her life.

For more information about the initiative or to get involved, contact Andrea Trabelsi, atrabelsi@delawaregreenways.org, 302-655-7275. Also, find a link to the Wellness Initiative updates at the City's Web site to learn about current events.

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.

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...

- Property owners are responsible for the maintenance and repair of sidewalks and driveways.
- Grass must be maintained on a regular basis.
- Trash and garbage left at curb for pick up must be stored in containers with lids at all times. Permissible times for placement must be observed.
- No debris, junk, indoor furniture, appliances, etc. are to be stored on exterior properties.
- Vehicles which are unregistered, wrecked, inoperable or missing any major components cannot be stored anywhere in the City except in a fully enclosed building.
- Pet owners are responsible for cleaning up after their animals. This must be done immediately.

Consider Grasscycling!

Excerpt from Wikipedia

Grasscycling refers to leaving grass clippings on the lawn when mowing. The term combines "grass" and "recycling" and is part of the push to reduce huge quantities of clippings going to landfills, up to half of seasonal waste flow.

Because grass consists largely of water (80% or more) and has high nitrogen content, clippings easily break down and return to the soil in one to two weeks, acting primarily as a fertilizer supplement. Grasscycling can provide 15% to 20% or more of a lawn's yearly nitrogen requirements. Grasscycling also reduces the use of plastic bags, reduces trips to the landfill (saving gas and taxpayer dollars) and saves on landfill tipping fees paid by taxpayers.

Optimal grasscycle techniques include:

- cutting no more than 1/3 the length of the grass;
- cutting when the grass is dry;
- cutting when the height is between 3 and 4 inches;
- ensuring that the mower blade is sharp.

A mulching mower is not required for grasscycling.

CITY OFFICES CLOSED

Fri., April 22 with No Recycling Pickup. Households with Friday Recycling Pickup should put out Recycling for Collection on Thurs., April 21.

UPDATE

Yard Waste Cart Give-Away

The Delaware Solid Waste Authority (DSWA) has donated additional* Yard Waste Carts for the City to provide to residents. There remains a limited supply. Carts are available, one per household, first come/first served, by calling 322-9804. Carts will be delivered by City forces until the supply is exhausted and this give-away program will end. Carts are similar to large (65 gal.) recycle carts. (*beyond the original 200)