



New Castle Crier

The official newsletter of New Castle City

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New Castle, Delaware

July 2011

Clarifying DelDOT traffic proposals for New Castle

In late May, DelDOT held a public workshop to present proposed ideas to address traffic concerns within the City of New Castle. A number of City residents attended and commented on the proposals.

What was presented at that workshop has been a topic of discussion among City residents in a variety of settings. Unfortunately, some of the feedback provided to City officials indicates that many people came away from that meeting without a clear understanding of what this is all about and how and when these proposals could evolve into changes in existing City traffic patterns.

DelDOT began conducting traffic analysis and studies in 2007, in response to concerns expressed by City officials (prior to the current Council), on behalf of a number of City residents, concerning traffic congestion within City limits.

These studies were completed in 2009, at which time conceptual plans were presented to the City Council.

In June of 2009, DelDOT informed the City that there was money available for engineering work which could be used to address these concerns. Members of the City Council, Planning Commission, Trustees and others, heard a DelDOT presentation about what projects could be designed by an engineering firm and DelDOT staff. At a Planning Commission meeting, those members agreed to recommend to the City Council to go ahead with the engineering work. Subsequently, the City Council considered the matter and approved DelDOT going forward and working with an engineering firm to look at these City traffic issues, with the hope that the situation could be resolved for the better.

The City Council Resolution approving DelDOT to move forward with the engineering work included, “...that the Planning Commission, as well as the public, would be able to provide timely feedback to DelDOT on the proposed engineering plan.”

The feedback referred to in the Resolution is part of the process which just occurred at the end of May. The next step is for the City Council to meet again with DelDOT to discuss citizen reaction to the proposals. That meeting will likely take place towards the end of July or at some time in August.

It is important for New Castle citizens to know that the City Council has not given the go-ahead to DelDOT to implement any of the proposals presented at the May workshop, and therefore there is no impending start for construction on any of the changes presented to occur.

Wellness Initiative inspires many actions

In two short months, Delaware Greenways and the City of New Castle have begun to write a new health prescription for the City of New Castle. Funded through the Delaware Department of Public Health, New Castle's Community Wellness Initiative is nearing its first year goal of creating a Wellness Action Plan to address the

identified needs of the community and take action toward better health in New Castle.

On June 2, the Assessment Team reviewed findings generated by community surveys of the public, community institutions and health-care sectors of the City of New Castle. Their discussions provided a

continued on back page

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

Mon., July 4: Offices Closed/No Trash Pickup
Revised Trash Schedule On City Calendar

New Castle – The First Capital City!

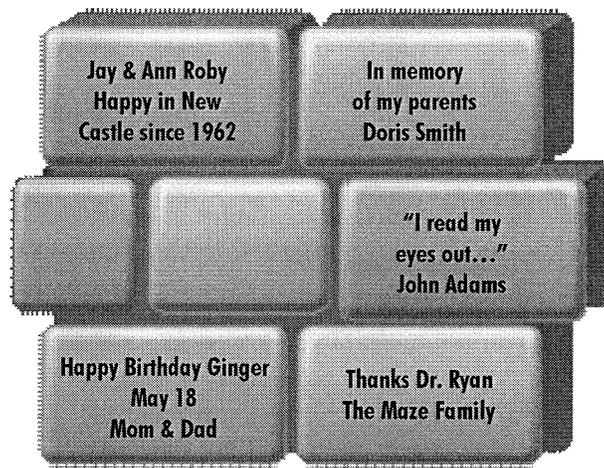
Library Tribute Garden Campaign Underway

Once each century, a new set of New Castle visionaries come forward to meet the evolving needs of Library users.

Our outstanding new Library has been built. It is fully operational. And we are in the final phase of our Capital Campaign. Now it's our turn to help lay the final bricks!

Your brick can:

- Document your time and place in New Castle's history!



- Honor a loved one!
- Share an inspiration or favorite quote!
- Celebrate a special occasion!
- Give Thanks!

Many are stepping forward to commit to one or more bricks. You can too.

Order forms are available at the Library or by calling 328-1995.

Delaware Greenways is looking for a few Great Kids in New Castle

Delaware Greenways is recruiting a Penn Farm Junior Work Crew of volunteers for the summer. The program started on June 28 and runs for six weeks, with participants meeting every Tuesday and Thursday morning from 8:30 a.m. to noon. It is not too late to sign up for young people,

ages 13 to 17, interested in outdoor work including fence building, preparation of garden beds, planting, trail work and light construction. The Junior Work Crew will be dedicated to making improvements on the Penn Farm. Under the direction of a Volunteer Crew Leader, the kids will pack

lunch and take on different projects each week. The volunteer program is free, however will be limited to eight participants, and will end August 4.

For an interview, interested families may contact Michèle Jennings at 302-655-7275 or: mjennings@delawaregreenways.org.

Initiative yields a variety of results

continued from front page

foundation for writing a draft action plan based on the data. In addition, a mission statement, goals and operating principals were drafted for consideration in a final meeting of the Assessment Committee on June 16. In this meeting, the Assessment Committee reviewed both the Guiding Principles and the Action Plan in preparation for a finished report submitted to the Division of Public Health on June 30.

The New Castle Community Wellness Assessment is already inspiring community groups to develop projects that will further the goal of improving health in New Castle.

- Early Spring saw the beginning of a volunteer led efforts to clean-up the woodland that borders the Broad Dyke Marsh.
- On April 15, the eighth grade Tall Oaks Classical School students and their advisors undertook a clean-up of a future walking trail on the historic Penn Farm on Frenchtown Road.
- Eleven New Castle residents have already been trained as New Castle (NC) Trail Stewards and are now sending in reports on Trail conditions.
- The first Trail Maintenance Day, sponsored by Delaware Greenways and the NC Trail Stewards, removed a

mountain of trash from the New Castle Industrial Track Greenway in May.

- A second Trail Maintenance Day, held June 4, celebrated National Trail Day with a trail marking and clean-up of the Broad Dyke Marsh.
- Five Boy Scout Troop 27 Eagle Scout projects were presented to the Trustees of the New Castle Common for permission to create trails, build an amphitheater, and improve the woodland behind the Penn Farm.
- Penn Farm's Tract 6 Produce Market is now open on Frenchtown Road offering fresh, locally grown produce. In addition, the market will be a resource center for alternative energy and sustainable agriculture in Delaware.
- Penn Farm volunteers have stepped up to spruce up the barn and foundation plantings.
- The dedication of Penn Farm will take place on July 8 at 2:30 p.m. Governor Markell is expected to attend.

Delaware Greenways and the City of New Castle and their partners would like to thank all of the volunteers and organizations that have supported and contributed to New Castle's Community Wellness Assessment. Not only have they laid the foundation for leadership and change, but their work will place New Castle at the forefront of taking action towards better health in Delaware. To keep updated on progress visit the Greenways site at: www.DelawareGreenways.org.