January is the time to renew your City Business License and Rental Housing Business License

Now is the time to renew/obtain the 2014 New Castle City business licenses and rental housing business licenses.

All business’s located in and/or working within the City, must have a current New Castle City business license. See Chapter 156 of the City Code.

All rental properties must have a current New Castle City “rental housing business license”, which must be renewed annually, and must be periodically inspected by the City Building Department. See Chapter 140, Article V, of the City Code.

All license applications and City Code information are available at the City Building Department, 900 Wilmington Road (Trolley Barn), or at newcastlecity.delaware.gov. Payment is due at the time of application.

Apply for City Property Tax Exemptions starting Jan. 15

January 15th begins 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 16th.

Important Notice
Christmas & New Year Weeks Schedule Change in Trash and Yard waste Pick-Up
Mon., Dec. 23rd City-Wide Trash Pick-Up
Tues., Dec 24th - Offices Closed; NO Trash Pickup
Wed., Dec 25th - Offices Closed; NO Yard Waste Pickup
Wed., Jan 1st - Offices Closed; NO Yard Waste Pickup

December/January Citywide Events

Through December 29
Holidays at the Amstel and Dutch Houses. The Amstel House will be decorated for a traditional holiday celebration in colonial times, showing off a “dessert board” of the period, and featuring traditional 18th century customs during the period of Governor Nicholas Van Dyke’s residency. At the Dutch House, experience a celebration of St. Nichols’ Eve, a tribute to the legend of Saint Nicholas, Dutch patron saint.

Through December 29
Exhibit: Taverns, Taprooms and Tippling Houses. Final days to visit a new exhibit at the Old Library Museum explores the history of drinking establishments - both legal and illegal - in New Castle since the 17th century. At the Old Library Museum, Weekends (excluding holidays), 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Free.

Courthouse Tree Honors NCC Police 100th!
Stop by the New Castle Courthouse Museum to see the holiday trees decorated in honor of the 100th Anniversary of the New Castle County Police. See the collection of over 300 photos of NCC police officers, K-9, and mounted units, photos from as far back as 1930’s.

January 3rd First Friday Art Loop
Every first Friday, we join our big sister (Wilmington) in offering an art loop. Wine, snacks, friends and beautiful works of art - don’t miss it! Next up, January 3. For more information go to www.historicnewcastle.com

January 11th—5:30-8:30 p.m.
Wine About What Ales You Start your New Year off right - at the 4th Annual Wine and Craft Beer Tasting. At the newly reopened Arsenal, 30 Market Street. Music by DJ Lew, hors d’oeuvres by William Penn Culinary - $25 covers it all! RSVP to Cynthia.Snyder@state.de.us to reserve your ticket.

New Castle — The First Capital City!
The most picturesque and historic waterfront community on the East Coast!
Wine About What Ales You
Saturday, January 11, 2014 - 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.
The Arsenal—30 Market Street in New Castle
$25 per person

It’s that time of year again to mark your calendar for “Wine About What Ales You” the 4th annual Wine and Craft Beer Tasting presented by the Historic New Castle Alliance.

Hors d’oeuvre served by the William Penn Culinary School
Music provided by D.J. Lew

Due to capacity - tickets are limited - so don’t delay! If you want to ensure you get a ticket please RSVP to Cynthia.Snyder@state.de.us by January 3, 2014.

This is an annual event for the Historic New Castle Alliance. To learn more about the Alliance, please visit their website at historicnewcastlealliance.com.

The City Flower Beautification Committee is looking Forward, to Spring

This year the City would like to feature some of the Committees, Commissions, and Boards that work behind the scenes to help keep the City running smoothly, and make the City of New Castle a better place for its citizens and visitors.

The Flower Beautification Committee maintains nearly 20 gardens throughout the City. From the Memorial garden at the Flag Pole at 6th and Chestnut to the Buttonwood and Dobbinsville gardens. Throughout the year, they work hard to keep the City looking beautiful. In addition to these gardens, they also take care of 22 Street Urns, and 3 Urns on the Wharf. One of the frequently asked questions from visitors is, “What is the name of those beautiful roses growing all over New Castle.” In case you are also wondering, it is Knockout Roses.

Next time you are driving around New Castle, take time to notice their wonderful handiwork.

If you are interested in serving on this or any of the City’s Committees, Commissions, or Boards please contact the City office at 322-9801.

Best Wishes to all for a Happy and Safe Holiday season, and New Year. From the City officials and employees!

Code Enforcement Corner

Code Enforcement helps to maintain and improve the quality of life of New Castle City residents by administering an unbiased enforcement program to correct violations of City zoning, property maintenance and building codes;

Complaint forms are available at the City Offices or on the City Web site at newcastlecitadelaware.gov. Complaints are handled on a confidential basis; however, if feedback and/or updates are requested, name, address and phone number need to be provided with the complaint.

- Please do not prune or remove City trees yourself, or without permission of the City Tree Commission.
- Please do not mix trash/garbage and recycle.
- Please do not use recycle containers for trash/garbage.
- Please keep property clear of trash, junk, furniture, appliances, old vehicles, weeds, tires, etc.

With the recent winter storms we want to issue a friendly Snow Removal Reminder

It is the responsibility of property owners to maintain the sidewalk in front of their property within 24 hours of the end of a weather event. Removal of snow and ice are required. The owner, tenant or occupant of any house or other building, or the owner of any improved or unimproved lot is responsible for the removal of snow/ice within 24 hours of the end of an event, with a three feet minimum passage width. (note: Please do not throw snow into travel lanes of the streets.)