



Forum slated on National Monument; status of Sheriff's House ownership

Some weeks ago, the State contacted the City and submitted an application requesting a minor subdivision be approved involving the Court House, Sheriff's House and the property known as "The Green."

For the City process, the Historic Area Commission (HAC) needed to approve setbacks for the proposed subdivision in the historic area. HAC granted that approval, as submitted on plans from the State, on December 14.

The next step required review of, and recommendation from, the Planning Commission (December 17), for-

warded to City Council (December 18), concerning the parcels proposed for subdivision. At that meeting, the State asked that its application for a minor subdivision be tabled. Its reasoning was that State and Federal representatives would have added time to provide information to City residents about the possible transfer of ownership of the Sheriff's House from the State to the National Parks Service. This was also discussed at the special City Council meeting on December 18, however no action was taken due to the matter having been tabled.

For some years, in discussions about a new National Park for Delaware, the Sheriff's House has consistently been proposed to serve as the Headquarters for the Park, and that plan remains valid. State and Federal government representatives are continuing negotiations on how the arrangement will work with that building and if, in fact, a transfer of ownership will occur.

Two segments of a public forum are scheduled at 2 and 6 p.m. on Monday, January 7 at the Court House. The forum format will allow citizens to stop by to speak with State and/or Federal officials and get more information about this topic. Interested persons may also, at any time, contact Josh Magarik, Projects Director for U.S. Senator Tom Carper, at (302) 573-6291, or send email to Josh_Magarik@carper.senate.gov.

A short time after the December 18 City Council meeting, Senator Carper's office requested the Planning Commission and City Council again schedule special meetings in January, after the public forum, so that the minor subdivision application could be reconsidered. Those meetings are both scheduled at 6 p.m. at Town Hall, as follows: Planning Commission, Monday, January 14 and City Council, Tuesday, January 15.

Scholarship offered by Trustees

Once again, the Trustees of the New Castle Common are offering scholarships to students entering or attending college full time who are residents of the City of New Castle. Based upon academic success and financial need, the grants are awarded for one year, payable each semester.

Applications must be received on or before April 15. For applications, contact the Trustees of the New Castle Common, P. O. Box 453, New Castle, DE 19720-0453, or at the Trustees' office in the Old Town Hall.

File now to run in City election

Wednesday, January 2 is the first day for candidates to file to run for elected City offices. Elections will be for Mayor (2-year term), Council President (4-year term), four Council seats (two 2-year terms, two 4-year terms), City Treasurer (4-year term) and City Clerk (4-year term). Candidate filing forms are available at the City Office at 220 Delaware Street.

The last day to file to run is Friday, February 22. The City Election is scheduled for Saturday, April 13. Absentee ballot applications may be submitted at the City office at 220 Delaware Street beginning on Wednesday, February 27.

January Event

Saturday, January 12 at 5:30 p.m.

New Castle Court House Museum

Let's Wine About What Ales Use

3rd Annual: Hosted by Historic New Castle Alliance

Wine and Ale Tasting with Artisan Cheeses and Gourmet Chocolates served by William Penn Culinary Arts Program

Craft Beers Showcased by 16 Mile,
Iron Hill and Argilla Breweries

Wines presented by Auburn Road Vineyard,
Southern Wine and Spirits and DOPS, Inc. Fine Wines

Acoustic guitar entertainment by Carol Regan

Blind Wine Taste Test with a Wine Prize • Wine and Craft Beer Basket Raffles

RSVP by January 7 • \$20 for Alliance Members and \$25 for Non-Members

Purchase Advance Tickets at the Court House or at the Event at the Door

To RSVP or for more info., contact Cindy at 323-4453, or Cynthia.Snyder@state.de.us

New Castle – The First Capital City!

The most picturesque and historic waterfront community on the East Coast!

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

Public meeting slated for trail projects

The Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) invites the public to attend a public workshop on Tuesday, January 15 at William Penn High School from 5:15 to 8 p.m. The workshop will focus on two walking and biking trail projects within and near the City of New Castle.

The Route 273 Trail project proposes to construct a bicycle and pedestrian trail along Route 273 (Frenchtown Road and Delaware Street) from the Farmers Market to near 10th Street in the City. The proposed improvements will connect to the existing New Castle Heritage Trail and the existing Industrial Track Trail. Construction is tentatively scheduled to begin in 2013.

The Churchmans Road Trail Study will present alignment alternatives for extending the existing trail along Churchmans Road (near Airport Road) farther east along Churchmans to Route 273, eventually connecting to the Route 273 Trail. This is a study only; final design and construction are not funded yet.

The workshop will be at the High School cafeteria, 713 East Basin Road, New Castle. Members of the public are invited to attend any time between 5:15 and 8 p.m. Attendees will have an opportunity to review display materials and provide comments.

Any person having special needs or requiring special aid, such as an interpreter for the hearing impaired, should contact DelDOT one week in advance. Mail comments to DelDOT Public Relations, P.O. Box 778, Dover, DE 19903; or submit via email: dot-public-relations@state.de.us. For further information contact Public Relations at 1-800-652-5600 (in DE) or 302-760-2080.

City Offices Closed & No Trash Pickup: Tuesday, January 1
Tuesday Trash Collected Wednesday, January 2
City Offices Closed & No Trash Pickup: Monday, January 21
Monday Trash Collected Tuesday, January 22
Tuesday Trash Collected Wednesday, January 23

FEMA revising FIRMs; City properties impacted

Editor's note: The following are edited excerpts from the FEMA Flood Hazard Mapping Fact Sheet prepared for New Castle County. This entire publication and a great deal of other detailed information, including draft maps, are available online at www.rampp-team.com/de.htm. (Note the map sections for the City of New Castle are numbered 0162, 0164 and 0166.)

FEMA manages the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). This Federal Government program makes flood insurance available to residents in communities which meet certain criteria, including the City of New Castle. Maps created by FEMA include the Special Flood Hazard Area, which is the area that has a 1% or greater chance of flooding in any given year.

When FEMA maps flood hazards in a community or county, two products are produced:

- a Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report; and
- a Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM)

An FIS is a narrative report of the community's flood hazards that contains prior flooding information, descriptions of the flooding sources, information on flood protection measures and a description of the hydrologic and hydraulic methods used in the study.

A FIRM illustrates the extent of flood hazards in a community by depicting flood risk zones and the Special Flood Hazard Area, and is used with the FIS report to determine the floodplain development regulations that apply in each flood risk zone and who must buy flood insurance.

FIRMs for New Castle County are being revised using the latest technologies and the most current data so residents, homeowners, business owners and community officials may understand the local flood risk and keep people and property safe from floods.

Large printed color draft maps can be viewed at the Public Services Department at the Trolley Barn at 900 Wilmington Road. For more information go online to the above Web site, call the FEMA Map Information eXchange (FMIX) at 1-877-336-2627, or locally contact New Castle City Building Official Jeff Bergstrom at 322-9813.

As the City receives new information from FEMA, that will be publicized to City residents through this newsletter, the local newspaper and on the City Web site at NewCastleCity.Delaware.gov.

Apply now for 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 C. 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 17th.