Welcome Spring! Well we’ve made it through the winter, and a cold, snowy spring. Now, it’s time to get out and enjoy all the spring and summer events.

One of the first signs of spring in New Castle is Arasapha’s May Market. Fri., May 4, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sat., May 5, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on Market Square behind Town Hall. Purchase plants, baked goods, crafts, and white elephant items. Proceeds help fund Arasapha’s work in New Castle’s historic gardens.

The 3rd weekend in May brings another New Castle tradition; “A Day in Old New Castle.” This year’s theme is “Life on the River” and will showcase not only many beautiful homes and gardens throughout the City, but will include tours of the Kalmar Nyckle.

On Fri., May 18th, 6:00 - 800 p.m. there will be a sunset celebration commemorating the return of the Kalmar Nyckel to Historic New Castle. Tickets are $30.00 proceeds benefit the Kalmar Nyckel Foundation.

On Sat., May 19th from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., enjoy activities throughout town; you might even see a pirate or two in Battery Park. Tickets for the tours are $25.00 and include exclusive guided tours of private homes, gardens, and museums; tour the Kalmar Nyckel, and enjoy encampments, reenactments, and musical performances.

Upcoming events include the Summer concerts in Battery Park, starting on Wed., June 20th with Blue Cat Blues, and a new event on Thurs., June 21st benefitting the New Castle Senior Center called “Dining in the Street.” More info below.

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**April & May Events**

**Sat., April 21st 9:00 a.m. to Noon**
Annual Beach & Battery Park Clean-Up
Bring a friend and help out! Sign up in Battery Park near the NC Sailing Club Boat House.

**Sat., April 28th, 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Bellanca Open House**
Bellanca Airfield and Delaware Aviation Hall of Fame. Free Admission.

**Fri., May 4th - 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.**
**First Friday - Art Loop**
On the First Friday of each month walk through local galleries and shops. This month "Mo'zArt", a new gallery, is opening at 2nd & Delaware Streets. This event is Free

**Fri., May 4th 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. & Sat., May 5th 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Celebrate spring at the annual May Market. (See info above)**

**Sat., May 12th 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Bellanca Open House**
Bellanca Airfield and Delaware Aviation Hall of Fame. Free Admission.

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**New Castle – The First Capital of the First State!**
The most picturesque and historic waterfront community on the East Coast!
Municipal Services Commission
2018 Spring Hydrant Flushing Program

The Municipal Services Commission Water Department will begin our Spring Hydrant Flushing Program on Monday, April 23, 2018. Flushing will begin at 7:30am and end at 3:00pm Monday through Friday taking approximately 10 business days to complete. Our Hydrant Flushing Program is important to our water system and is an integral part of our goal to deliver the safest and highest quality water possible. Additionally, it improves fire protection by testing the operation of our hydrants.

The Municipal Services Commission schedules our flushing program during the early Spring when demands are lower using a carefully planned route to control the direction of flow in our system. Customers should not experience service interruptions during the flushing process.

The flushing process may cause some temporary water discoloration. There is no health hazard associated with the discolored water. If you notice discolored water, run several cold water taps at the same time until the water is clear. Avoid using hot water and doing laundry until you are sure the water is clear.

Save the Date!
Old New Castle
“Fallen Hero’s 5K Run/Walk”
In honor of Elizabeth A. Lonki
Thursday, May 24th 2018

Proceeds benefit the Elizabeth A. Lonki Scholarship Fund, named in memory of Senior Airman Elizabeth A. Lonki, a graduate of St. Peter School. Medals for overall winners, T-Shirts, food, drinks, music and prizes. Details and registration information at www.stpeternewcastle.org/fallen-heroes-run

Onsite registration begins at 5:00 p.m.
Start Times: 6:30 pm - 5K Start
6:15 pm - Kiddie Fun Run - FREE to kids 10 & under

LIFE AFTER THE STREETS

This is not a sordid tale of ill repute or a clandestine affair but a true story about the life and rebirth of B18. For those individuals familiar with the Good-Will Fire Company in Old New Castle, you know who B18 is, better yet, what she is. B18 is the Basic Life Support Ambulance put into service in 2006. She was the primary ambulance during the approximate years of ‘06 to 2012 when she was then joined by A18.

B18 is a Chevrolet C4500 and her original cost in 2006 was approximately $180,000. The C4500’s ranged in style from buses to pickup trucks, box trucks to ambulances. Chevy debuted the Kodiak C4500 truck at the Chicago Auto Show in 2006 with a starting sticker price of $70,000. There is a substantial investment necessary for ambulance conversions.

These beauties spend hours on the road and require a lot of TLC. Good-Will EMS responded to 1,992 calls last year which averaged 5.4 runs per day. That is a lot of “street” time for an older girl like the B18. Necessary expenditures are required for maintenance and upkeep of the entire fleet. B18 required a new diesel engine while she was in service. As one can imagine, this expense was not mild. Volunteer Fire Companies do receive state and local funding from grants and programs as well as tax dollars. There is also an annual Fund Drive which generates some additional money. Obviously there is a continual need for support of all Volunteer Fire Companies.

A decision was made last year to take “Good ‘Ole B18” out of service as she performed with honor and dignity and it was time to move her into retirement. Local business, Marling’s Emergency Cleaning & Restoration got wind that Good-Will would be placing B18 for sale. Marling’s provides emergency cleanup of fire, smoke and water damage and has been serving the community since 1989. Owner, John Marling felt that an ambulance would work well with his fleet of vehicles; hence, the rebirth of B18. The sale was finalized and the transformation of B18 into a board up and contents vehicle began. B18 was painted white and then wrapped to resemble the rest of the Marling’s fleet. Through her makeover many things changed but one feature remained consistent. She still bears the Number B18. She is a beautiful vehicle that still responds to emergencies but now her job is to aid with a structure and its contents. You may see B18 out on the road around Delaware as Marling’s, Inc. holds the state contract for Fire & Water Mitigation.

The renovation of B18 from an ambulance to a different type of emergency response vehicle has been well received by many. Good-Will Fire Company, the board, staff and volunteers were able to breathe new life into B18 by selling her to a local business that is also focused on helping people. What better way for B18 to carry on with her life “after the streets”!

-Khristian Toolan