



City News

The next Regular
City Council meeting
is 7 p.m.,
Tues., Aug 12th at the New
Castle Senior Center
400 South Street

REMINDER

Please note that Building Permits are required for all projects except painting, carpeting and landscape work. **Failure to get a permit could result in double permit fees.** In addition, all contractors working within the City must possess a current City Business License. Call 302-322-9801 opt 5 for permit & license questions.

The New Castle Crier

The Official Newsletter of New Castle City

Volume 19- Issue 8 * New Castle, DE * August 2025

City of New Castle Announces New Tax Rate & Expanded Exemptions for Fiscal Year 2026

On Thursday, June 26th, City Council approved the Fiscal Year 2026(FY 2026) Budget for the period of July 1, 2025- June 30, 2026, after a thoughtful and lengthy budget season. Council also adopted the new County property assessments and determined the "rollback rate" from the previous tax rate, to be .23799 per \$100 of assessed value. The "rollback rate" is the amount which would provide the City with the same amount of revenue as the old county taxable value with the new county taxable value. The previous tax rate was 1.2 of \$100 of assessed value which generated \$3.1 million and the "rollback rate" of .23799 per \$100 of assessed value would also generate that same amount of revenue. After careful consideration and determining the need for additional revenue, City Council determined that it was necessary to raise City taxes for Fiscal Year 2026 to .35635499 per \$100 of assessed value. Tax Bills will be sent out in July 2025.

Senior Citizen Property Tax Exemption and Disability Tax Exemption Extended through September 1, 2025 for Fiscal Year 2026 tax billing.

During the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget process, City Council approved ordinances to extend the deadline for Senior Citizen Property Tax Exemptions and Disability Tax Exemptions through September 1, 2025 and have raised the income limits and exemption amount on assessed valuation to allow for more residents to take advantage of the program. Residents who have already applied and have been accepted to receive a tax exemption for Fiscal Year 2026, do not need to re-apply for Fiscal Year 2026. Residents must re-apply each year to ensure the below qualifications are met.

Here are the details:

- Single property owners whose income, excluding social security, shall not exceed \$25,000 are eligible for exemption
- Married property owners whose income, excluding social security, shall not exceed \$50,000 are eligible for exemption
- Exemptions are applicable to the first \$173,000 of assessed valuation, for those who meet the eligible criteria
- Property Owners must reside at the property or in an assisted living facility to qualify for the exemption

To see if you qualify for the exemption, please schedule an appointment with Diane Delgado, Finance/HR Specialist to complete your application. **Please call the City Administration Office to schedule your appointment (302) 322-9801.**

What to bring:

- Driver's License or ID
- Copy of 2024 Federal IRS and State Division of Revenue Income Tax Return filed in 2025
- For Disability Tax Exemption, please provide your social security statement/ medical letter.

Delayed Interest on Late Tax Payments through December 1, 2025 for Fiscal Year 2026 tax billing:

Interest charges in the amount of 6% in October and 1.5% each month after are typically applied. For Fiscal Year 2026, taxes paid on or after October 1, 2025 are subject to an interest charge of 1.5% October, an additional interest charge of 1.5% in November and 6% for the month of December. For each consecutive month after December, an additional interest charge of 1% will be applied.

New Castle-The First Capital of the First State!

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

August/September Events

ANNUAL SUMMER CONCERTS IN BATTERY PARK

June 18th - August 6th 6:30-8:00 p.m.

7/16/25 Exit 93

7/30/25 The Launch

7/30/25 Magical Mystery

8/6/25 Cindee & Jimi

Grab your blanket or a chair for music in the park.

Information is available at www.historicnewcastle.com.

New Castle Senior Center Annual Block Party
Covered Dish on the Green-September 21, 2025
4:00-8:00 (rain Date 9/28). Tickets \$25.00 on Eventbrite and at the New Castle Senior Center beginning August 1, 2025. Proceeds benefit the Center's operational costs.

Saturday, September 27th, Annual Art on the Green in Battery Park hosted by the New Castle Hundred Lions Club. www.artonthegreende.net

Saturday, September 27th, Belgian Beer Fest
Hosted by the NCCP. www.historicnewcastle.com



Set Sail on the Kalmar Nyckel!

The Kalmar Nyckel will be docking at the Delaware Street Wharf several times during the 2025 sailing season.
August 24th – September 7th (Public Sails)

For more information or to book a sail go to www.kalmarnyckel.org.

Announcement from the Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs (HCA) for the launch of the digital submission option for the state's Historic Preservation Tax Credit program. The portal is expected to be available sometime this month.

<https://history.delaware.gov/2025/06/25/unveiling-the-historic-tax-credit-program-online-system/>

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 on the City Website, www.newcastlecity.delaware.gov or at the City Offices.

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.

Street Trees: A street tree is a tree planted in the sidewalk or a planting strip in the public right-of-way. If you have a street tree in need of attention, please contact the City office at (302) 322-9801, or go on the City website to submit a Tree Work Application.

www.newcastlecity.delaware.gov/tree-commission.



The City of New Castle Tree Advisory

Commission acts in an advisory capacity for the City of New Castle regarding the maintenance of the street trees and other trees on City property. There are approximately 1,000 trees that the Commission oversees.

From the Code: § 210-12:

A. No person shall, without a valid tree permit, remove, destroy, break, cut or deface any street tree.

B. No person shall directly or indirectly permit any toxic chemical or any toxic substance to seep or drain or be emptied on or about any street tree.

A tree work permit is required for the planting, removal or pruning of branches of street trees. A resident must obtain a tree permit to ensure that proper care is given to street trees. Street tree work completed without a permit shall be a violation of this chapter subject to fines and enforcement actions under the City Code.