



CITY NEWS

www.delawarecity.delaware.gov

March 19, 2015

DELAWARE CITY ELECTIONS-CANCELLED

The 2015 Delaware City Elections have been cancelled. Only 1 official candidate filed for the position of Mayor, Stanley Green. Only 2 candidates filed for the 2 available council positions. Therefore in accordance with Section 8-08 of the City Charter and Code Book Chapter 2, Article II, Elections, there will be no formal election in Delaware City in 2015. The candidates for Councilmember are Robert Malinowski and Betty Barrett. They will be sworn into office at the 4-20-15 Mayor & Council meeting along with Mayor Stanley Green. Our heartfelt thanks to outgoing Councilmember John Buchheit for all his service.

REMINDER

Senior Citizen/Disability application form and required documents for a tax/water reduction are due back to Town Hall by **April 15, 2015**. Applications are still available at Town Hall.

FIRE COMPANY NEWS...

Mar 19 -Sub Sale

Mar 27 - Paint & Drink -for more info visit www.dcf15.com
Remember to make sure your house no. is visible so 1st responders can find your house in an emergency. Also, we recently changed our clocks so it is time to change the batteries in your smoke detectors.

Ebenezer Methodist Church Easter Sunrise Service on Sunday Apr 5th, at 6:30 AM at Battery Park. All are invited.

DELAWARE CITY NOW DOES BUILDING INSPECTIONS & CODE ENFORCEMENT

At a Special Mayor & Council meeting held on Wednesday, March 4, 2015, the Mayor and Council adopted a number of City Ordinances that updated the Delaware City Code. Some of the changes include: replacing the current Building Code (Chapter 23) to incorporate a plumbing, mechanical and electrical code; creating a Department of Building Inspection & Code Enforcement (Chapter 53); procedures for Property Maintenance (Chapter 52); and procedures for a Land Subdivision (Chapter 54). All of these additions can be found online at www.delawarecity.delaware.gov. Click on Government, then Charter/City Code. Then click on the Chapter you would like to read. Until now a homeowner who wanted to do an addition or other work to their home had to come to Town Hall and then go to New Castle County who did our inspections and code enforcement. With these changes the homeowner will now only have to come to Delaware City Town Hall and we will do our own building inspections and code enforcement. We will be able to take a more proactive approach. If you have any questions, please contact us at 834-4573.

COMMUNITY GARDEN...plots available! There will be a meeting on 3-28-15 at 9AM in the garden to claim your box. If you can't attend & want a plot contact Angela at goingarden@juno.com or 484-832-4318.

FLOOD INSURANCE —Do you need it?

In the last City News, we notified all those property owners that are in the Special Flood Hazard Area (100-year floodplain/AE Zone-1% chance of flooding). If you live in this flood area., you may want to consider obtaining flood insurance. Homes built before the adoption of City floodplain regulations may likely be at greater risk of flooding during a severe storm. Be advised that most homeowners' policies specifically exclude damage caused by floodwaters from rising water, inadequate drainage and wind driven rain. Fortunately, the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) will provide this important insurance for purchase to Delaware City property owners that reside in a floodplain. This protection has been made available for purchase to Delaware City and other communities that have taken steps to manage and reduce the chances for local residential flooding. Our rigorous floodplain regulations (Chapter 48 of the City Code), rated a "Class 7" designation by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), allow Delaware City residents to take advantage of flood insurance premiums that are 10% lower than the national average. The NFIP coverage is available for purchase to any Delaware City owner or renter of insurable property. To purchase NFIP flood insurance, contact any licensed property insurance agency or broker. If you are not sure if your property is located within the 100-year floodplain, please call Town Hall at (302) 834-4573. For your information, floodplain maps and NFIP brochures are available at Town Hall, 407 Clinton Street and on our website www.delawarecity.delaware.gov. Please come and pick up your copy of the *Homeowner's Handbook to Prepare for Natural Hazards*. It contains information on how to prepare your home, your family and you for flooding and other hazards.

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EVENTS FOR MAR, APR, MAY

MARCH

29-Dragon Run's Easter Egg Hunt 1:00-3:00 PM

APRIL

18- 4th Annual Duathlon, Battery Park, 5AM to 1PM

25- Townwide Yardsale 8:30-3:30

25-Cruise Club with Cool Cars, Battery Park 3:30PM

25- Fort Delaware Opens

27- FREE Large Item Pick Up

MAY

10- Antique Truck Show 8AM-5PM, Battery Park

23- Cruise Club with Cool Cars, Battery Park 3:30

25- American Legion Memorial Day Celebration, 10:30

30 - FREE Shredding & Recycling Event-more info to come

1st Presbyterian Church, 138 Jefferson St, will be offering Larkey Special sandwiches, a favorite from the 50's & 60's, on Sat, Apr 25th (Yardsale Day). Bag lunches will also be available. Pre-orders are requested. Call 834-7266 by Fri, Apr 24th to pre-order your Larkey.

TOWN WIDE YARDSALE

The Townwide Yardsale will be Sat, Apr 25th 8:30AM to 3:30PM, but set up early for those early shoppers. We hope all the organizations, businesses, churches, and families will set up a sale. The Committee will be advertising on radio and in papers for this event. Please take part in a fun day.

Reedy Point Players

Reedy Point Players are thrilled to announce their critically acclaimed production of **THE OUTSIDERS** won three major awards at the Delaware BroadwayWorld.com Awards. **THE OUTSIDERS** won Best Play and Best Ensemble in the Non-Professional categories. Also, Delaware City resident, Erin Miller, won Best Director of a Play (Non-Professional) for her work on **THE OUTSIDERS**. All voting was submitted by the public online. Big Congratulations to the Reedy Point Players on this wonderful accomplishment. Additionally, the Reedy Point Players just finished their One Act Festival, where their production **FIND ME**, was selected to represent them in the upcoming Delaware Theatre Association Festival, the state competition. Break a leg, all!

FREE LARGE ITEM PICK-UP...on Mon, Apr 27th, from Waste Industries for all those unsold items from the yard sale. Refrigerators and air conditioners will only be removed with advance arrangements with Waste Industries by calling 302-378-5400.

Library News

Career-Education Fair- Interview with employers & educators on Fri, Mar 27th from 10-2 at the Library. Bring your resume, & dress for success!

Artist in Residence-Vickie Reed will be offering 2 classes the weekend of Apr 11-12. Contact the Library for more info.

TRASH CONTAINERS

With the passage of Ordinance 14-0915-02 (the Omnibus Zoning Ordinance) which was adopted by the Mayor and Council on March 4, 2015, there are a number of changes to the City Code. One change is trash containers. The owners of all properties: residential, commercial, industrial or other purpose; in Delaware City are now obliged to make sure that there is an adequate number of trash and recycling containers at their properties. The City may place additional trash containers on the property of any owner who is in violation of this section of the Code. The cost for any additional trash cart placed at a property will be assessed to the property owner. Each parcel is issued one trash cart and one recycling cart for free. If an additional trash cart is necessary at a property, the cost is \$60.00 for each cart per quarter. To read the Code in its entirety go to www.delawarecity.delaware.gov and click on Government-City Code/Charter-Chapter 7 Solid Waste. You will find the new Code under Section 7-4.

FERTILIZING /USING PESTICIDES ON THE LAWN

With Spring upon us, everyone starts thinking about their lawns. Nearly everyone appreciates a well cared for lawn. To achieve the healthiest green lawn, many people turn to chemical fertilizers. Unfortunately, law fertilizers pose several risks to human health and water quality. Hazardous chemicals in fertilizers include ammonium nitrate, ammonium phosphate, ammonium sulfate, pesticides and potassium chloride. Fertilizers can be corrosive to skin, eyes and mucous membranes and can potentially affect water quality.

Fertilizer Use

When using fertilizers, read labels carefully to ensure that you are properly protected and that you use the right amount of fertilizer for your lawn. Don't fertilize before predicted heavy rain and be careful along lawn edges. Fertilizer left on sidewalks and driveways can easily be washed into storm water. It is suggested that slow-release fertilizer is less-hazardous. Look for bags that have the word "WIN" on them, this indicates that the fertilizer contains water insoluble nitrogen.

Leftover Fertilizer

If you have fertilizer left over, store it in a sealed and labeled plastic bag and keep it away from children, pets, and water. If you do not want to store it, it is best to find someone who can use it.

Disposal

Empty fertilizer bags that do not contain pesticides and weed killers can be disposed of in the garbage. If the fertilizer contains pesticide, please follow directions under "pesticides" on your product's label to dispose of properly.

Reducing the Need for Fertilizer

You can reduce the amount of fertilizer you need by frequently mowing your lawn with a mulching mower to a height of three inches and leaving the clippings on the lawn. Using compost and soil amendments also reduces the need for fertilizer. Pesticides are chemicals used to kill or repel pests. Pesticides include herbicides (which kill plants), insecticides (which kill insects) and fungicides (which kill fungi).

The pesticides used in a yard are poisons and may pose a health threat to the person applying them if not handled carefully. They also pose a threat to animals, plants, and insects beyond the intended pests. Honeybees are an example of non-targeted organisms. They are very susceptible to many household pesticides such as carbaryl (sevin) and chlorpyrifos. Other non-targets include ladybird beetles, which are natural biological pest controls, and fish, which can suffer direct poisoning from the household insecticides, permethrin, resmethrin, pyrethrin, and rotenone washed into a canal, stream, or lake. Groundwater was thought to be immune from the many chemicals used on lawns and gardens. However, contamination may occur when polluted surface water moves through the soil to the water table. When we see weeds or insects invading our favorite plants, our first response is often to apply a pesticide. Some people even apply a pesticide to prevent invasions by pests. Both of these automatic responses lead to unnecessary pesticide use. A better approach is Integrated Pest Management (IPM).

Cultural Control

Cultural pest control methods attempt to create optimal growing conditions for plants and unfavorable conditions for pests. Methods include:

-For Gardens

- Select disease-resistant varieties of plants
- Plant varieties adapted to the geographic and soil conditions
- Maintain a rich, fertile soil, with the proper pH for the plants being grown
- Rotate plants to disrupt the life cycle of pests.
- Plant and harvest early to promote healthier, stronger plants and avoid peak insect populations.
- Remove pest-infected plant residue in the fall.
- Plant a wide variety of crops to reduce potential pest problems.
- Evaluate the availability of sunlight and water. Most garden plants need plenty of each to help control pest problems.

-For Lawns

Proper mowing heights are important. Set the mower to cut 2 ½ inches. Mow often, each time the grass reaches 4 inches. (It's important not to cut more than one-third of the height.) On troublesome spots, remember that improper light, moisture, or soil conditions discourage good turf. Use of shade-tolerant grasses, bringing in topsoil, or switching to alternative ground covers may be the answer.

Mechanical Control

Practice the vanishing art of hand-weeding. When health, expense, environmental consequences, and even time are considered, small problems with lawn weeds are handled in no better way. Till the soil in weedy areas rather than using herbicides. Like hand-weeding, a few large insects (such as certain caterpillars) may be easily removed by hand in little time. Use mulches to reduce weed problems, conserve moisture, and prevent soil erosion.

Chemical Control

When you have accurately identified a pest in damaging numbers and other controls have failed or are impractical, carefully choose a pesticide. Pesticides are usually effective only during certain stages of the pest's life and at specific concentrations. If possible, select a pesticide that is designed to kill only the insects, weeds, or disease organism causing the damage.

Pesticide Application

Use pesticides only when other control methods fail. Extensive use of pesticides can kill beneficial organisms that help keep pest populations under control.

- Read the label carefully-it tells how, when, and where to use the product
- Apply only the amount specified on the label and apply only to the plants and areas listed.
- Wear protective clothing as directed on the label. Do not wash clothing contaminated with pesticides with other clothing.
- Make sure the pesticide is designated for use on the pest you want to control. Do not mix different pesticides unless instructed by the directions.
- Keep pesticides in their original containers so you know what they are and how to use them.
- Do not apply pesticides if rain is in the forecast (unless specified on the label)...Pesticides do need to be watered-in after application, but rain or watering can wash others off plants, decreasing effectiveness and possibly contaminating lakes and streams (Read the label!)
- Never spray pesticides on breezy days. The spray drifting in the wind poses a serious danger to untargeted plants and animals – including those in neighbor's yards. Never apply pesticides on bare ground or eroded areas. When it rains, pesticides can easily be washed off these sites with eroding soil.

REMEMBER - ONLY RAIN DOWN THE DRAIN!! Call Town Hall at 834-4573 to report any illicit discharges.