



# CITY NEWS

www.delawarecity.delaware.gov

Sept 10, 2016

## FIFTH STREET (RT. 9) CLOSING

Due to construction on the Fifth Street Bridge, Rt. 9 (Fifth Street) between New Castle Ave and Clinton St will be closed all day long starting Sept 12, 2016 at 7 AM and will not reopen until Apr 30, 2017 at 5 AM. Please adjust your travel routes.

## AFRICAN UNION CHURCH CEMETERY

You are invited to attend the Grand Opening & Dedication of the African Union Church Cemetery on Saturday, Sept 17, 2016 at 10 AM. It is located next to the Branch Canal Trail. There will be parking at the Paul H. Morrill, Jr. Community Center located at 250 Fifth Street. Trail transportation to the cemetery will be available for those with mobility issues.

## LIBRARY NEWS

- Sat. 9-10 at 1P.M. Vietnam Mailbag
- Sat. 9-10 at 1 P.M. Teddy Bear Tea Party
- Mon. 9-12 at 6 P.M. Roald Dahl Birthday Extravaganza
- Mon. 9-12 at 5:30 P.M. History of Video Game
- Wed. 9-14 at 6 P.M. Adult Board Game Night
- Thurs. 9-22 at 6 P.M. Cool Craft Hour
- Sat. 10-15 at 1:00 P.M. The Shakespeare that Nobody Knows
- Wed. 10-19 at 6:00 P.M. Witch Craft Make a Spooky Craft
- Sat. 10-22 at 1:00 P.M. Teen Fanfiction Workshop
- Wed. 10-26 at 6:00 PM Teen Night Halloween Party
- Mon. 10-31 at 5:00PM Halloween Party

## (302)STOPPIT Water Pollution Hotline

New Castle County, the City of Wilmington, and the Delaware Department of Transportation have established the (302) STOPPIT water pollution hotline for residents to report pollution going into or coming out of the storm sewer system. When Delaware City residents see evidence that someone has dumped chemicals or debris into the storm sewer system, here's what they can do:

- Visit [www.302STOPPIT.org](http://www.302STOPPIT.org) and fill out an online form
- Call or send a text message to (302) STOPPIT (302.786.7748) with the location and details
- Email [hotline@302STOPPIT.org](mailto:hotline@302STOPPIT.org) with the location and details.

The storm drains that line streets and parking lots connect to the storm sewer system and eventually reach local streams and rivers. For this reason, it is illegal for anyone to dispose of motor oil, household chemicals, yard waste, pet waste, or any other materials in storm drains and storm sewers. The partners will investigate all tips from residents and take appropriate action, which may include containment, cleanup, and issuing citations. If you don't want to drink it, it doesn't belong in the storm sewer system.

## Delmarva Power Encourages Customers To Take Advantage of Energy Assistance Programs

Delmarva Power wants to remind its customers they have the option to apply for energy assistance right now so they are prepared for colder winter temperatures. The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) provides critical home heating and cooling assistance to those who qualify is administered by Catholic Charities and is a federally funded program that assists low-income households – both homeowners and renters – with their energy bills. Although most customers use the program for heat, assistance is provided for heating, necessary cooling costs, and emergency crises.

The LIHEAP application period started on July 1, 2016 and is open until March 31, 2017. For more information, or to apply for LIHEAP assistance, call Catholic Charities at (302) 654-9295. In addition to LIHEAP, customers can contact DE 211 (dial 2-1-1), a hotline that offers information and referrals to local agencies and services that can assist with utilities and other necessities, or visit them at [delaware211.org](http://delaware211.org). Customers can also contact Delmarva Power's Customer Care Center at 1-800-375-7117 and ask about budget billing, installment plans, or seek assistance with registering for *My Account*, a web-based interactive tool that provides customers with a detailed analysis of their specific electric use and offers ways to save energy and save money on their monthly energy bill.

## RIVER TOWNS RIDE & FESTIVAL

**Saturday, October 1st from 11:30-5PM** Celebrating Historic New Castle & Delaware City. This FREE event will take place rain or shine and will feature food, music, vendors, craft beer and family fun at both locations! There will be Cycling Time Trials from the City of New Castle to Delaware City and recreational bike rides between the two Cities for all ability levels. Come out and enjoy this Family Festival. For more information go to: [RiverTownsfestival.com](http://RiverTownsfestival.com).

## REEDY POINT PLAYERS

The next production for the Reedy Point Players is *Carmilla*. Performances will be Fri through Sun, Oct 28, 29 & 30. They are hosting auditions for their Dec production, *A Christmas Carol*, on Sept. 7 & 8 at 6:30 PM at the Delaware City Library. Looking for men and women of all ages. For more info- <http://www.thereedypointplayers.com/>

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE DELAWARE CITY BABE RUTH BASEBALL TEAM!** They are State Champions and advanced to the Regionals! Unfortunately, they lost at this level. We are very proud of you and all you accomplished!

### First Presbyterian Church

In 1835, a request was made to Manuel Eyre of Phila for a plot of ground whereon to build a Presbyterian Church in Delaware City. Mr. Eyre deeded a lot at the north corner of Jefferson & Second St for use by professors of the Presbyterian religion for their use as a place of worship or religious instruction and burial ground. Upon this lot, was erected a brick church, surmounted with a steeple, which was commenced in 1835 and finished in 1836, when it was dedicated. On Sunday, November 13, 2016 a celebration of the 180th Anniversary of the congregation will be held.

**Delaware City Fire Co.** is doing a calendar lottery during the month of Oct. You purchase a calendar for \$10. Each calendar is numbered with a 3 digit number. If your calendar number is the winning number drawn daily on the DE State Play 3-you win! For more information, or to purchase a calendar, contact Cheryl Dennis or a member of the Fire Co. 834-9336.

**Delaware City Lions Club** invites you to become a member. They meet the 2nd Wed of the month at the DC Fire Co. Hall at 6:30 PM. The meetings are dinner meetings catered by the Ladies Auxiliary & cost \$10. If interested in joining contact Joe Tharp 834-7894 or Charles Neel 834-7503.

**The Emerald Ash Borer**, a non-native beetle imported from Asia, was recently discovered in northern Delaware. It has devastated Ash Tree populations on the entire eastern third of the United States; originally imported into Michigan back in 2002. Paul Johnson has been in contact with State Parks, DNREC, and other municipalities and will keep everyone informed of any recommendations going forward. Several thousand trees will be affected. For more information visit [www.emeraldashborer.info](http://www.emeraldashborer.info).

**Mt. Salem UAME Church**-4th & Bayard Streets  
 9-10 - Missionary Afternoon Tea at Dragon Run-12 to 3PM  
 9-11 - Unity Day - 3:30  
 9-24 - Bar-B-Q & Fish Fry - On Church Lawn at Noon. Eat in or take out. For more information call 861-6721.

**HYDRANT FLUSHING** Water in the system remains treated during the flushing and slightly discolored water is still safe to consume. However, it is recommended that customers open their **COLD** water taps until the water runs clear. Avoid turning on hot water taps until the water runs clear to prevent discolored water from getting into the hot water heater. The hydrant flushing program is performed every year and helps keep the distribution system clear of mineral deposits. It also allows all fire hydrants to be tested and repaired if necessary. The flushing will be performed by employees of Artesian Water Company on behalf of the City. If you encounter some staining of laundry, stain remover powder is available at Town Hall that may be able to help. The hydrant flushing will take place from Mon, Sept 26th through Sept. 30th.



**City of Delaware City**  
 407 Clinton Street  
 P. O. Box 4159  
 Delaware City, DE

PRST STD  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
 NEWARK, DE  
 PERMIT NO. 20

**HYDRANT FLUSHING  
 STARTING MONDAY,  
 SEPT 26th THROUGH  
 FRIDAY, SEPT 30th**

**BOXHOLDER  
 DELAWARE CITY, DE  
 19706**

## FLOOD HAZARD AREAS

Delaware City is vulnerable to coastal storms and flooding. A significant percentage of the town is located within the FEMA defined 1% chance flood plain. These areas are noted as Zone AE on the FEMA flood map and are particularly susceptible to flooding.

Flash-flooding is the general type of flooding caused by the Canal. For Delaware City, flooding will occur if there is a storm surge or if two or more high tides take place without an intervening ebb tide.

Information on whether your property is in the AE (1% chance) floodplain can be obtained by coming into Town Hall and we can help you. Maps are available to look at as well as other flood-related information. You can contact Town Hall at (302) 834-4573 for further assistance. You can also visit our website at [www.delawarecity.delaware.gov](http://www.delawarecity.delaware.gov) and click on the Floodplain link.

## FLOOD SAFETY

The following common sense guidelines can help you from the dangers of flooding:

- Do not drive through a flooded area. More people drown in cars than any where else. Do not drive around barriers.
- Do not walk through flowing water. Currents can be deceptive. Six inches of water can knock you off your feet.
- Stay away from power lines and electrical wires. If your house is about to be flooded, turn off the power at the service box. Electrical current can travel through water. Electrocutation is the 2<sup>nd</sup> leading cause of death during floods.
- Be alert to gas leaks. Turn off the gas to your house before it floods. If you smell gas, report it to your gas company. Do not use candles, lanterns or open flames if you smell gas or are unsure if your gas has been shut off.
- Keep children away from the flood waters, ditches, culverts and storm drains. Flood waters can carry unimaginable items that have dislodged themselves.

## DELAWARE CITY FLOOD INFORMATION

Culverts may suck smaller people into them rendering them helpless.

- Clean everything that has been wet. Flood water will be contaminated with sewage and other chemicals which pose severe health threats.
- Look out for animals, especially snakes. Small animals that have been flooded out of their home may seek shelter in yours.
- Do not use gas engines, such as generators, or charcoal fires indoors during power outages. Carbon monoxide exhaust can pose serious health hazards.

## PROPERTY PROTECTION MEASURES

If your property is susceptible to flooding, there are many flood damage reduction measures you can employ.

- Watertight seals can be applied to brick and block walls to protect against low-level flooding.
- Utilities such as heating and air conditioning systems, water heaters and other major appliances can be elevated to higher floors in the structure or on raised platforms.
- Temporary measures such as moving furniture and other valuables to higher floors or sandbagging exterior openings will also help.
- Elevating or relocating the entire structure may also be a feasible option.

## FLOODPLAIN PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

All development within the AE Floodplain (1% chance) (not just construction of buildings, but filling, excavation, fences, etc.) is required to obtain a Delaware City Building and Floodplain Permit.

Applications must be made prior to doing any work in a floodplain area. Please contact Town Hall to receive all the information you will need in order to properly develop in the floodplain at (302) 834-4573. You may report any illegal development activities to the above number as well.

## SUBSTANTIAL

### IMPROVEMENT/DAMAGE

The NFIP requires that if the cost of improvements to a building or the cost to repair damages (from any cause) to a building exceeds 50% of the market value of the building (excluding land value), the entire building must be brought up to current floodplain management standards. Building improvement projects include exterior and interior remodeling, rehabilitation, additions and repairs and reconstruction projects. Please contact Town Hall at (302) 834-4573 for further information.

## FLOOD INSURANCE

If you do not have flood insurance, talk to your insurance agent. Most homeowner's insurance policies do not cover damage from floods. Flood insurance is only available to those participating communities in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Because of our floodplain management programs that attempt to protect us from the multiple flooding hazards, Delaware City is part of the NFIP and thus, residents are able to obtain flood insurance. Additionally, because Delaware City participates in FEMA's CRS program, flood insurance premiums are discounted.

Be sure to check your policy to ensure you have adequate coverage. Usually these policies cover the building structure, but not the contents. Contents coverage can also be obtained by asking. There is a 30-day waiting period before flood insurance coverage becomes effective. Plan ahead; do not wait until a flood is predicted before purchasing flood insurance. If you are building inside the floodplain, the purchase of flood

insurance is mandatory if using a federally regulated/insured bank for a loan.

## **NATURAL & BENEFICIAL FUNCTIONS**

Floodplains play a valuable role in providing natural and beneficial functions to the area around, and including, Delaware City. Floodplains that are relatively undisturbed provide a wide range of benefits to both human and natural systems. These benefits provide aesthetic pleasure as well as function to provide active processes such as filtering nutrients. Parts of both the Old Canal and Dragon Run floodplain are used as a means to filter farm chemical run-off so that these areas can maintain bio-diversity and ecosystem sustainability. Both floodplains contain historic and archeological sites that provide opportunity for education and study. Both enhance waterfowl, fish and other wildlife habitats and provide feeding/breeding grounds. And lastly, both floodplains provide natural erosion control and open space so further flooding damage does not occur.

## **DRAINAGE SYSTEM MAINTENANCE**

As simple as it may sound, simply keeping smaller ditches and streams free of debris can dramatically improve the run-off capacity of low-lying areas, as well as greatly reduce the occurrence blockage that significantly contributes to flooding. It is illegal to dump materials into a required waterway and violators may be fined. If you see someone in the act of dumping or see debris in one of our watercourses, please contact Town Hall at (302) 834-4573.

## **FLOOD WARNING SYSTEM**

Many times, flooding along the Old Canal and Dragon Run within Delaware City can be predicted days in advance, giving ample warning for preparation and evacuation. However, in the event of a flash flood due to a large rain event, you may be the first to notice the oncoming situation and have only hours to execute your

plan. Notify the Police Department at 302-836-6344/Fire Department at 302-834-9336. Tune your radio to WFLD – 88.1 FM for local and National Weather Service Updates. You will also see regular interruption on local radio and television stations advising you of the situation.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

If you should require further or more detailed information regarding flood-related issues in Delaware City, here are some additional sources:

- FEMA.gov
- FloodSmart.gov
- Delaware City Town Hall (302) 834-4573  
407 Clinton Street  
Delaware City, DE 19706
- Floodplain on the City's website  
[www.delawarecity.delaware.gov](http://www.delawarecity.delaware.gov) by a link on our Home Page or under Community/Public Service.
- Delaware City Public Library

## **ELEVATION CERTIFICATE**

Delaware City participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Properties in the AE Flood plain are subject to regulation under the Delaware City Flood Plain Ordinance (Chapter 48 of the City Code), which meets FEMA requirements for the NFIP. These regulations are designed to save lives and reduce property losses when flooding occurs. Without access to the NFIP, property owners would find flood insurance to be prohibitively expensive, if available at all. Special rules apply for development in the flood plain, including minimum floor elevation and hydrostatic venting of foundations. A FEMA elevation certificate is required for all new construction and "significant improvements" in the flood zone. In addition, no filling or grading may take place within the flood plain

without a permit from the City. You can come to Town Hall, 407 Clinton Street, to get an Elevation Certificate application and instructions on how to fill it out or you can visit [www.delawarecity.delaware.gov](http://www.delawarecity.delaware.gov) or [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov). Any resident in need of a copy of the elevation certificate for flood insurance for their residence can check with Town Hall to see if there is one on file prior to contacting an engineer or surveyor.

**Delaware City Refining Company**

The Delaware City Refining Company will host an Employee and Community Open House on **Saturday, September 24, 2016 from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM** and you and your families are invited. The event will include many informational stations and exhibits. Fun and games and other interesting activities for children will also be offered. Refinery team member will be available to address questions you may have about the refinery. The Delaware City Refining Company hopes you and your families attend this fun filled day. All are welcome!

**National Drug Take Back Initiative**

The Delaware City Police Department is sponsoring a “National Drug Take Back Initiative” on Saturday, October 22, 2016 from 10:00AM to 2:00 PM. We would like to give everyone the opportunity to drop off their prescription drugs that are out dated or no longer can be used. You can drop off your drugs at the Police Department, 407 Clinton Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor now until October 22<sup>nd</sup>.