



# CITY NEWS

www.delawarecity.delaware.gov

Sept 12, 2017



**City Manager, Carol Houck**

**TOWN HALL 407 CLINTON STREET, DELAWARE CITY, DE 19706 302-834-4573**

## Manager's Message

As we all prepare to welcome Fall I enter my fourth month as your City Manager and the first thought that comes to mind is how happy I am to have the opportunity to serve this community during its exciting time of growth. I also share that the welcoming I have received from our citizens, Mayor and Council, city staff, various committees and businesses has been heartwarming.

You might say I had to hit the ground running with the town's largest event occurring six weeks after my arrival and yes, I had some busy early weeks, but I wouldn't have it any other way. It gave me the opportunity to get to know more people and town logistics in a shorter period, while seeing how we can pull together to make an event a success.

As I continue to better familiarize myself with our organization, and the challenges and opportunities we are facing as a community, I welcome your engagement and outreach. Delaware City is a gem! Below is a morning coffee spot that I often gift myself before starting the day!

All My Best,  
*Carol Houck*





## DELAWARE CITY FIRE COMPANY

All of us at the Delaware City Fire Co. hope you had a safe and enjoyable summer. As the summer season winds down, I wanted to share a few things with you that will be taking place over the next couple months.

As you may already know, October is Fire Prevention Month in the State of Delaware. We will also be holding our annual open house during the month of October. As the details are finalized, we will make them available on social media, our digital sign, and through communications with Town Hall. Daylight savings time also ends on November 5<sup>th</sup> this year. When the clocks are set back, we encourage everyone to check the batteries in their smoke detectors and CO alarms. If anyone needs assistance with either device, you can call us at 834-9336 and we will be more than happy to assist.

I also wanted to remind everyone that we are always looking for new members. We start accepting members into our cadet program at the age of 14. Although our core function is Fire, Rescue, and EMS, you don't necessarily need to be active to become part of our company. We have a broad range of tasks that are needed to support the operations of this department and it requires people from all walks of life with various backgrounds and experiences.

I believe that most people don't fully understand what we do and what opportunities are available through the fire company. Some of those things I will list below but the most satisfying is obviously the chance to give back to your community. We offer free training, a State pension after a ten year vesting period, scholarship opportunities, networking with various professionals and organizations around the State, and unique opportunities for anyone considering a career in the medical or fire related fields.

We also take pride in being a very close knit family based organization with a history dating back over 130 years. We enjoy various outings together including; Phillies and Eagles games, skiing and tubing in the Poconos, picnics, cruises, Holiday parties, trips to the beach, and many members often vacation and travel together due to the relationships they have forged over the years.

If you would like to learn more, or inquire about more specific opportunities within our department, we would love to show you around. Feel free to stop by anytime as we have staffing in the building at all times unless we're responding to an emergency.

Respectfully,

Paul H Johnson, Sr., President



## RIVERTOWNS RIDE & FESTIVAL

**Saturday, September 16th 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 and Delaware City **Scarecrow Making Too!** For more information go to: [RiverTownsFestival.com](http://RiverTownsFestival.com).

**Anybody doing any closet cleaning??** In association with the Rivertowns Ride & Festival...Delaware City will offer a Scarecrow making event and donations will benefit our Delaware City PAL program! If you are disposing of old pants and long sleeve shirts, drop them off at Town Hall by Friday morning, September 15<sup>th</sup>! Thanks for your help!!!

## POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS

The Delaware City Police would like to remind everyone that Oct. 28, 2017 is "National Drug Take Back Day". Anyone wishing to drop off their unused or expired medications for safe disposal may do so 9:00AM to noon at the Police Department. You may also drop off your pet's medications.

**ATTENTION PET OWNERS!!!**The Police Department has created a "pet registry" to help us identify your dog/cat in the event they are lost. Please bring in a photo of your pet (or we will be happy to take the picture for you if you don't have one) and we will put it in the registry along with your pet's name and a short description and your contact information. Since we started the registry, we have been very successful in reuniting owners with their pets!

## REEDY POINT PLAYERS

The Reedy Point Players will return to the Delaware City stage in October with their Halloween inspired production, Dracula in Love! Performances are 2 nights only, October 27 & 28 at 8 PM. Tickets are cash only at the door. For more information about tickets, please see their website at: <http://www.thereedypointplayers.com> Next up will be their December production, The Game's Afoot or Holmes For The Holidays, that will perform December 15, 16, & 16.





**Thursday, August 17, 2017** – Delaware City celebrated the unveiling and dedication of the Historical Marker for the African Union Church! Senator Poore, Mayor Green and Deputy Mayor Malinowski were in attendance along with our dedicated citizens that helped to bring the marker to our town.



The Delaware City Mayor and Council supported a Proclamation in Honor and Recognition of National Airborne Day which is celebrated on August 16<sup>th</sup> each year. Additionally, in Delaware City, the day has been celebrated by former Airborne members with a luncheon and great comradery at Kathy's restaurant with coordination handled by Brigadier General Wiley. Mayor Green, Councilwoman Titus and City Manager Houck were honored to attend and present the Proclamation on behalf of Mayor and Council this year.



### DELAWARE CITY TURNS THE TOWN TEAL- FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER!

In recognition of National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month and to promote greater awareness of ovarian cancer and its systems. Please visit [www.deovariancancer.org](http://www.deovariancancer.org) Know the symptoms!

### (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.



The 5<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge opened this spring after its rehabilitation project! On Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, DelDOT and the Delaware City Fire Department, with support from Senator Poore and Representative Longhurst named the bridge in honor of fallen Delaware City paramedic Michelle N. Smith.

The Delaware Distance Classic will take place here in Delaware City on October 8<sup>th</sup>! Now in its 3<sup>rd</sup> year here in our town, the event has been supporting our community including funds for our playground upgrades and the Delaware City Fire Department. The 2017 event contribution will be used to assist with the purchase of school supplies for Delaware City Children through our PAL program!





**DELAWARE CITY LIBRARY EVENTS AND PROGRAMS  
SEPTEMBER and OCTOBER 2017**

**ONGOING EVENTS**

**Sun. 9-3, 9-17, 10-1, 10-15** at 1 PM: PAWS for Reading (read to a therapy dog!). Registration requested.

**Tues. 9-12, 10-10** at 6:30 PM: Reading Rainbow Story Hour: Take a look, it's in a book! Watch 2 episodes of reading rainbow, blankets and stuffed animals welcome!

**Tues. 9-19, 10-17** at 6:30 PM: Pub Trivia at Lewinsky's. Come to Lewinsky's on Clinton for a themed trivia night. Adults.

**Tues. 9-26, 10-24** at 6:45 PM: Delaware City Reading Group. Discuss this month's book selection.

**Wed. 9-27, 10-25** at 6 PM: Teen Night. Teens will enjoy music, games, crafts, and refreshments.

**Wed. 9-20, 10-17** at 5:30 PM: Recent Release Wednesday. Screen a recently released film at the library. Light refreshments provided. Call the library for titles.

**Thurs. 9-7, 9-21, 10-5, 10-19** at 4 PM: Children will listen to a story time, followed by a themed craft.

**Sat. 9-16, 10-21** at 2 PM: LEGO Club. Ages 7-12.

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

**Sun. 9-10** at 12:30 PM: Autumn Collage Making. Create an autumn themed collage from paper leaves, cardstock, and recycled magazines and newspaper. Adults. Registration required.

**Mon. 9-25** at 2 PM: Flu Shots: Walgreens will be administering flu shots for all ages at the library. Valid photo ID and insurance card required. If not covered by insurance, cost is \$25.99, payable by check.

**Thurs. 9-28** at 6 PM: Speed Dating with a Banned Book. Celebrate Banned Book Week with a speed dating style game to find a new read. Light refreshments provided. Adults.

**Sat. 9-30** at 1 PM: S.T.R.E.A.M. @ the Library: *Pets*: - This S.T.R.E.A.M. @ the Library is also a Brandywine Valley SPCA event. We will be learning about pets and the best ways to care for them. All Ages.

**Wed. 10-11** at 6 PM: Fall Beauty Products Make-and-Take. Make your own exfoliating sugar scrub and soothing lip balm. Adults. Registration is required.

**Sun 10-15** at 1 PM: Paws Howl-een. This special Halloween themed Paws event features 2 adorable service dogs in costume and a special treat for participants. All ages. Registration required.

**Wed. 10-18** at 5:30 PM: Murder Mystery Whodunit—You Only Die Once! Participate in a heart racing murder mystery at the library! Victorian Vanities, a Philadelphia based organization comes to Delaware City to bring this event to life. Props and costumes are provided. Adults. Registration required.



## 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.

**CODE ENFORCER'S CORNER**

As summer winds down and we say goodbye to the blistering temperatures and welcome the cooler days, the weather presents a good time to get outside and tackle those outdoor projects. Fall is not only a good time for planting, but also a great time to build! Keep in mind that permits are required for any addition, structural repair, a shed in excess of 180 sq. ft., a new driveway or expansion of an existing driveway, and any new HVAC, plumbing or electrical work. If you're not sure whether or not your project requires a permit, please contact Town Hall, 834-4573 prior to commencing work. The Building Official has regular hours at Town Hall on Wednesdays from 9:30-12, or by appointment. Inspections are available M-F between the hours of 8-4.

**A SPECIAL THANK YOU** ...to the Love of Christ Church for volunteering to restore and paint the Fourth Street Pump House. Thanks again for your generosity and hard work in helping our Community.

**DRAGON RUN**

Position available: Dragon Run Park Commission is presently accepting applications for the position of Treasurer. Please submit current resume to: Pam Collacchi, 611 Madison St., P.O. Box 297, Delaware City, DE 19706

**LIONS CLUB NEWS**

On Sunday, August 13<sup>th</sup> Delaware City Lions Club (DE), in partnership with LabCorp (a national diagnostic testing company), held their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Back to School Back Pack Drive for local children in front of Delaware City Fire Company. The Back Pack Drive was advertised throughout the community and on social media for one month prior. This year's drive surpassed last year's figure of 86. A total of 143 filled back packs were distributed. Free hot dogs and drinks were also provided. A big 'thank you' to members of all three organizations who helped to make this event a success.

**HYDRANT FLUSHING** The hydrant flushing will take place from Mon, Sept 25th through Sept. 29th. 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.



**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 25th THROUGH  
 FRIDAY, SEPT 29th**

**BOXHOLDER  
 DELAWARE CITY, DE  
 19706**

