



# CITY NEWS

www.delawarecity.delaware.gov

Sept 10, 2015

## (302)STOPPIT Water Pollution Hotline

New Castle County, the City of Wilmington, and the Delaware Department of Transportation have announced the launch of 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," said Brian Urbanek with the Delaware Department of Transportation. "So report it when you see it at 302STOPPIT." New Castle Department of Special Services environmental compliance officer Mike Harris says the double "p" in 302STOPPIT stands for "prevent pollution." "The new hotline makes it possible for all residents to make a difference right in their own neighborhood," he said. Herb White, of the City of Wilmington Public Works Department, reminds citizens that dumping chemicals or debris into the storm drain is a crime. "Help us fight crime in your neighborhood by placing a simple phone call," he said. Dirty stormwater runoff from streets and parking lots is one of the leading causes of pollution in local creeks and the Christiana and Delaware Rivers. The (302) STOPPIT hotline is one of many projects that New Castle County and the City of Wilmington are investing in to control this problem.

About the Partners The Delaware Department of Transportation strives to make every trip taken in Delaware safe, reliable and convenient for people and commerce. DelDOT is responsible for state roads — and the storm drains along these roads — in New Castle County (including Fifth Street in Delaware City) and the City of Wilmington.

The New Castle County Department of Special Services is responsible for administration, engineering, environmental services, and internal services for New Castle County.

The City of Wilmington Department of Public Works provides a variety of services which touch the daily lives of all city residents and a substantial portion of New Castle County residents. Water Words That Work coordinated the joint effort between the state and local governments to create the 302STOPPIT hotline.

## DOG OWNERS

Recently we have received numerous complaints about dog owners allowing their dogs to defecate on others' properties and not picking it up, and allowing their dogs to run free and not on a leash. According to Chapter 24 Article IV of the Delaware City Code, no dog except seeing eye dogs and licensed dogs shall be allowed on park lands or private property other than that of the dog owner. Dogs at all times should be under the control of a responsible person through the use of proper restraints in the form of a collar and leash suitable for their intended purpose of controlling the dog and provided that owners immediately collect and properly dispose of dog waste. Dogs shall not urinate and/or deposit fecal matter on any property not that of the owner or custodian. It shall not be a violation if the owner or custodian removes said fecal matter immediately thereafter. The penalties for not following this Article are as follows:

- a.) The first offense twenty-five dollars (\$25.00).
- b.) Each subsequent offense shall impose a penalty of fifty dollars (\$50.00).

There are "mutt mitts" in Battery Park for your convenience.

**Please respect your neighbor's property and safety.**

## RIVER TOWNS RIDE & FESTIVAL

**Saturday, October 3rd 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: [RiverTownFestival.com](http://RiverTownFestival.com).

## REEDY POINT PLAYERS

For their Dec production the Reedy Point Players will perform *Little Women*. They will be hosting auditions on Sunday, Sept 13 at 1PM and Tues., Sept 15th at 6:30. All are welcome to audition, looking for men and women of various ages. Auditions will be cold readings from the script. Please see their website <http://www.thereedypointplayers.com> for more info. On Oct. 16, 17, 23 & 24 they will be performing *An Evening of Zombie Inspired One Acts*.

**3rd ANNUAL COATDRIVE/EXCHANGE**

As you are putting your Summer clothes away and bringing out the Winter coats and you have items you or your kids have outgrown and they are in good shape, please donate them to the 3rd Annual Coat Drive/Exchange to be held on Sat, Oct 10th. Coats, gloves, scarves, gloves, hats, sweaters, and jeans can be donated to the Marina from today until Friday, October 9th from 9-4, Tues-Sun. Drop off these outgrown items and you can pick up a new size on October 10th at the Delaware City Marina from 12-4 PM. If you have a lot to donate and need us to pick it up please call 834-4172 to arrange a time and date for pick up or for more info. We had over 240 items donated and distributed to folks in Delaware City last year. Let's top that number this year!

**PUT ON YOUR RUNNING SHOES**

Put on your running shoes and come out to the Pike Creek Valley Running Club 15K and 5K Running Race. It will take place on Sunday, October 11th from 8AM to Noon.

**UPCOMING EVENTS****SEPTEMBER:**

**19th - British Car Club of DE** 7:30AM to 4:30PM

**26th - Cruise Club** with Cool Cars

**OCTOBER:**

**3rd - River Towns Ride & Festival-** Delaware City to City of New Castle, noon-5PM

**3rd- Delaware City Fire Co. Open House** Noon to 3PM

**10th -3rd Annual Coat Drive/Exchange** at Marina

**11th - Pike Creek Valley Running Club-** 15K & 5K

**17th - Dragon Run Halloween Party** 6:30-8:30 PM

**16, 17, 23 and 24th - An Evening of Zombie Inspired One Acts-** Reedy Point Players- Community Center

**24th - Cruise Club** with Cool Cars

**31st - Halloween** - 6 to 8 PM

**DRAGON RUN NEWS**

Dragon Run will be holding their annual Halloween Party on 10-17-15 from 6:30 to 8:30 PM. Call Maureen Murphy at 834-0662 for more information.

**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 28th through Oct 2nd.



**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 28th THROUGH**  
**FRIDAY, OCT 2nd**

**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 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. Electrocution 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 FIRMATION

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 website
- Delaware City Town Hall (302) 834-4573  
407 Clinton Street  
Delaware City, DE 19706
- Floodplain on the 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.

**BUILDING CODE CORNER**  
(By: Kyle Bendler, Building Inspector)

Did you know?

The City has adopted the 2012 International Building Codes; the International Code Council publishes these documents on a triennial basis, as newer versions are released, new adoptions may occur after a review process. Codes are essential in our society; they protect both owners and patrons of businesses and residences by setting a minimum uniform standard for safety, construction methods and materials. The Building Official currently has office hours at City Hall on Wednesday's from 9:30 – Noon, or by appointment. Before you start your project, call City Hall to find out if a permit is required. To learn more about our adopted codes visit [www.iccsafe.org](http://www.iccsafe.org).

**PORTABLE TEMPORARY STORAGE UNITS AND DUMPSTERS**

The Delaware City Code Enforcement Office would like to remind all property owners that a permit is required for any storage or trash dumpster. In accordance with Chapter 52, Section YY. 302.16 -302.16.3 and Section KKK. 308.3.3 - 308.3.3.4 of the Delaware City Code, Portable Temporary Storage Units (for example, PODs) and Dumpsters are allowed to be placed for 30 days or the time period for which there is an active building permit. They must be set back a minimum of 3 feet from any property line and placed on a hard concrete or asphalt surface. They may displace one or more parking spaces, provided there is adequate on-street parking. There is a \$25 charge for a 30-day permit and \$50 charge for a construction dumpster. The permit will be good for a thirty (30) day time period and must be removed at the end of the time period. Permits can be obtained in the Code Enforcement Office at Town Hall, 407 Clinton Street.

**DELAWARE CITY FIRE COMPANY NEWS**

The Delaware City Fire Company's Open House will be held on Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> from noon to 3 PM. Please check the Fire Company's website at [www.dcf15.com](http://www.dcf15.com) or the Delaware City Fire Company's Facebook page.

The Delaware City Fire Company has free smoke detectors. You will be able to pick them up at the open house or just stop by the station and speak to any member.

The Delaware City Fire Company is selling Entertainment Books. See any member for more information and start saving money!

**THIS DATE IN DELAWARE CITY...**

(By: Ann Blackmore)

...September, 1898 Alex Jarrell and his wife see a remarkable site in the Delaware City Locks-a submarine known as the Argonaut, now known as Argonaut 1. Per Wikipedia "Argonaut No 1" was built in 1897 and is 36 feet (11m) in length. In September, 1898 it made an open-ocean passage from Norfolk, VA to Sandy Hook, NJ, becoming the first submarine to operate successfully in the open sea.

**CHURCH NEWS**

**Mount Salem UAME Church, 4<sup>th</sup> and Bayard Streets, Events:**

**September**

12 – Missionary Tea at Dragon Run (12-3 PM)

13 – Annual Unity Day (3:30 PM)

26 – Fall Bar-B-Q & Fish Fry on Church Lawn

## October

4 – Cornelia Brady Senior Day (3:30 PM)

18 – Church 182<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Celebration (11 AM & 3:30 PM)

For more information on any event call 834-0604.

### **First Presbyterian Church, 138 Jefferson Street, Events:**

**Fall Fest on Saturday, October 17th**, starting at 9:30 AM, baked items, attic treasures, lunch, and more. Proceeds benefit the organ repair fund.

## LIBRARY NEWS

### ONGOING EVENTS

**Sun. 9-20, 10-4, & 10-18** at 1 PM: PAWS for Reading (read to a therapy dog!) Registration requested.

**Mon. 9-21 & 10-19** at 5 PM: Minecraft @ Your Library. Ages 8-13. Registration required.

**Every Tuesday in September** at 6 PM: Food Skills and Nutrition Education.

**Tues. 9-29 & 10-27** at 6:45 PM: Delaware City Reading Group. Adults only. New members always welcome!

**Every Wednesday in September** at 6:15 PM: Crazy 8s Club. For children in grades 3-5. Registration required.

**Thurs. 9-17, 10-1, & 10-15** and **Sat. 9-26** at 11 AM. Crafty Story Time.

**Sat. 9-19 & 10-17** at 2 PM: LEGO Club. Ages 7-12. Registration requested.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

**Sat., 9-12** at 12 PM: Beekeeping 101 (great for families!)

**Mon., 9-14** at 6 PM: Private Elbert: The Voice from the Past

**Thurs., 9-24** at 6 PM.: Teen Movie Night: *The Giver*. Pizza and a drink provided. Registration required.

**Fri., 9-25** from 10 a.m.-2 PM: Job Fair & Online Media Center

**Mon., 10-5 & 10-26**: Monster Movie Monday.

**Sun., 10-11** at 12:30 PM: Fall Wreath Making. Adults only. Registration required.

**Sun., 10-18** at 1 PM: PAWS HOWL-een Party. Registration required.

**Sat., 10-31** at 12 PM: Halloween Party and Story Time. Ages 3-10. Registration required.

**September is Library Card Sign-up Month! Sign up for a library card and be entered into a drawing to win a \$50 Amazon gift card! Existing patrons: refer a new patron to the library and you can win, too!**

For information on these events and more, please call the library at (302) 834-4148, visit <http://nccde.org/delawarecity> and view our event calendar, or come by the library. Don't forget to "LIKE" us on Facebook!

## MAIN STREET NEWS

Main Street Delaware City is proud to announce our new Project Manager, Esther Lovlie. Esther is a long time Delaware resident and small business owner. She has all the right stuff to build, with your cooperation and support, an effective Main Street Delaware City Program. Esther has a firmly-held vision of making Delaware City a great place for all-residents and visitors alike. A town where the message is: "WOW, what a great place!" whether you are just passing through or have lived here your whole life.

We do have a wonderful gem in Delaware City. Join us at the Community Center for the next Town Hall meeting, Sept 21, and meet Esther in person. Let her know you support her vision for a livable, lovable, beautiful Delaware City!

**Main Street Delaware City is for you and by you. Join Today!**