



Councilwoman's Corner

News from the 5th District

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 4

SUMMER 2010

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Serving people while saving money

Happy summer to all of you! I hope you are enjoying the sunny weather, which is making the winter snow a distant memory.

In this issue, I want to highlight some of the issues that my office has been working with the county to get better service to the residents of the county, while saving taxpayer money. Much of this focus has been on working with the Corporation for National and Community Service to get service projects for New Castle County and for the fifth district.

During the month of June, you may have seen some industrious young people diligently working in Iron Hill Park along the roads and in the woods. Those men and women were members of the Wolf 2 team for the AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps. For three weeks, ten team members worked to remove multiflora rose and other invasive species in the park. During that time, the members of the team cleared approximately three acres of multiflora rose, giving native species the opportunity to spread

without being choked out by this plant. Since the team was financed through AmeriCorps, it saved the county over \$22,000 in labor and benefits to accomplish this project.

Another way the county is incorporating national service projects to save money is through the AmeriCorps VISTA Program. Starting in August, an AmeriCorps VISTA member will be working with the Senior Minor Home Repair Program in the Community Services department. This VISTA member will be charged with writing grant applications and recruiting corporate sponsorships to expand the budget of the program, which is currently only \$100,000 and only able to serve about 40 senior households each year. The VISTA member will also be responsible for recruiting and training volunteers to work on some of the home repair projects. These efforts by the VISTA member and the Community Services department should dramatically cut down the time that seniors spend on the waiting list for re-

pairs. This gives our older citizens in New Castle County some of the help that they need to stay in their homes longer and avoid costly nursing home and assisted living facilities. Not only will the VISTA help to bring additional income into the county through grants and sponsorships for the program, but the salary and benefits paid by the AmeriCorps program will save the county over \$20,000 as well.

These are just some of the ways that national service has been incorporated into the work of the county in the fifth district. Through these programs, the county secures cost-effective services while young people receive invaluable experiences for their resumes while earning money and grants for higher education. I hope that the county will be able to continue sponsorship of these projects for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Community Services offers wide range of summer activities

Have you checked out what New Castle County's Community Services Department has to offer? From sports to day camps to reading activities for children of all ages, the Community Services department has plenty of affordable ways to keep your child or grandchild entertained for the summer.

No children? No problem! New Castle County offers a variety of activities for adults as well. Exercise classes, sports teams, computer classes, outdoor concerts, free movies and book clubs are a few of the many options offered for the grown-ups in the household.

All of these activities and more are included in the newest issue of "Happenings." This booklet, published by Community Services, highlights the activities sponsored by the county throughout the summer. Visit <http://www.nccde.org> and click on "Summer 2010 Happenings" for more details.

Upcoming Events

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Councilwoman

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with the subject line

"Newsletter".

July 2nd — First Fridays with Councilwoman Diller. Newark Senior Center. 9:00 a.m.

July 4th — City of Newark 4th of July Fireworks. UD Athletic Complex. 6:00 p.m.

July 5th — County Offices Closed (Independence Day Observed).

July 6th — Christina School District Board of Education General Business Meeting. Bancroft Elementary School. 7:30 p.m.

July 9th — Aetna Fire Company Meeting. Station 9. 8:00 p.m.

July 12th — Newark City Council Meeting. Newark Municipal Building. 7:00 p.m.

July 13th — County Council Meeting. Council Chambers, City/County Building. 7:00 p.m.

July 20th — New Castle County Civic League Meeting. Sweeney Public Safety Building. 7:00 p.m.

July 21st — Williamsburg Village Civic Association Meeting. Williamsburg Village Community Building. 7:00 p.m.

July 26th — Newark City Council Meeting. Newark Municipal Building. 7:00 p.m.

July 26th — Friends of Iron Hill Park Meeting. Iron Hill Museum. 7:00 p.m.

July 27th — County Council Meeting. Council Chambers, City/County Building. 7:00 p.m.

July 28th — College Park Neighborhood Association Meeting. Dickey Park Pavilion. 7:00 p.m.

August 6th — First Fridays with Councilwoman Diller. Newark Senior Center. 9:00 a.m.

August 9th — Newark City Council Meeting. Newark Municipal Building. 7:00 p.m.

August 10th — County Council Meeting. Council Chambers, City/County Building. 7:00 p.m.

August 10th — Christina School District Board of Education General Business Meeting. Downes Elementary School. 7:30 p.m.

August 13th — Aetna Fire Company Meeting. Station 9. 8:00 p.m.

August 14th — College Park Annual Community Potluck Picnic. Dickey Park. 12 noon.

August 17th — New Castle County Civic League Meeting. Sweeney Public Safety Building. 7:00 p.m.

August 23rd — Newark City Council Meeting. Newark Municipal Building. 7:00 p.m.

August 23rd — Friends of Iron Hill Park Meeting. Iron Hill Museum. 7:00 p.m.

August 24th — County Council Meeting Cancelled (Summer Break)

August 25th — College Park Neighborhood Association Meeting. Dickey Park Pavilion. 7:00 p.m.

September 3rd — First Fridays with Councilwoman Diller. Newark Senior Center. 9:00 a.m.

September 6th — County Offices Closed (Labor Day).

September 7th — Brookside Community Maintenance Corporation Meeting. Brookside Community Center. 7:30 p.m.

September 10th — Aetna Fire Company Meeting. Station 9. 8:00 p.m.

September 13th — Newark City

Council Meeting. Newark Municipal Building. 7:00 p.m.

September 13th — Old Mill Manor Civic Association Meeting. 15 Millwright Drive. 8:00 p.m.

September 14th — Primary Elections for Delaware. Visit <http://www.electionsncc.delaware.gov> for more details.

September 14th — County Council Meeting. Council Chambers, City/County Building. 7:00 p.m.

September 14th — Christina School District Board of Education General Business Meeting. Bayard Middle School. 7:30 p.m.

September 15th — Williamsburg Village Civic Association Meeting. Williamsburg Village Community Building. 7:00 p.m.

September 19th — 40th Annual Newark Community Day. University of Delaware Green. 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

September 21st — New Castle County Civic League Meeting. Sweeney Public Safety Building. 7:00 p.m.

September 27th — Newark City Council Meeting. Newark Municipal Building. 7:00 p.m.

September 27th — Friends of Iron Hill Park Meeting. Iron Hill Museum. 7:00 p.m.

September 28th — County Council Meeting. Council Chambers, City/County Building. 7:00 p.m.

September 29th — College Park Neighborhood Association Meeting. Dickey Park Pavilion. 7:00 p.m.

To have your meeting or event listed in the "Upcoming Events" section of "Councilwoman's Corner", e-mail rbensley@nccde.org with the subject line "Upcoming Events".