



Councilwoman Diller's Community Corner

5th District, New Castle County Council

Summer 2017

Vacant Property - Legislative Update

Dear 5th District Residents:

New Castle County recently approved Ordinance 17-033, which amends New Castle County (NCC) Code, Chapter 7, Article 2, regarding the registration of vacant properties. The ordinance increases the vacant property registration fees to offset the costs associated with the inspection and monitoring of vacant properties. The ordinance also recognizes the need for the NCC Department of Land Use to monitor, and to take action, to assure that vacant property owners are registering their properties. In addition, Ordinance 17-033 proves a process for NCC to register a property and then recover fees and costs if a property is deemed vacant.

This ordinance provides authority to the Department of Land Use to register a vacant property pursuant to an administrative hearing, where fees and costs can be imposed against the property upon a finding of vacancy.

You can help me help you by being vigilant about vacant properties in your community and by letting my office know if a house appears to be vacant. Listed below are some of the qualifying conditions that define a vacant property:

- Accumulation of mail
- Advertising flyers or other delivered materials left unattended
- Disconnection of utilities - (Gas, Electric, Water)
- Overdue sewer or property taxes
- Additional property violations within 120 days preceding a finding of vacancy
- The absence of registered vehicles
- Evidence of the absence of occupancy

I am hopeful that this ordinance, sponsored by Councilman Dave Tackett, will help 5th district communities through documentation of vacant properties and then moving these properties toward occupancy or sale.

For more information on the ordinance, you can read the ordinance here: <http://www.nccde.org/DocumentCenter/View/18290>

Councilwoman Diller's Committee Assign- ments:

Co-chair: Boards & Com-
missions

Co-chair: Community
Services

Chair: Subcommittee on
Aging

This issue:

Page 1— Legislative Infor-
mation—Vacant Property

Page 2 - Newark area
activities and events.

Contact Information:

Councilwoman Elisa C.
Diller
Office: 302-395-8345
ediller@nccde.org

Visit Councilwoman Lisa
Diller on [https://
www.facebook.com/pages/
Councilwoman-Lisa-
Diller/532719513430516](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Councilwoman-Lisa-Diller/532719513430516)

Susan L. Moore
Legislative Aide:
Office: 302-395-8365
slmoore@nccde.org

Mark Your Calendar

- **First Friday With Councilwoman Lisa Diller** - 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. - Newark Senior Center. Please join Councilwoman Diller on the First Friday of each month to discuss topics that are important to you and your community.
- **Newark's Spring Concert Series** - Every Thursday in June at the Academy Building Lawn from 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. June performers - (6/1) Paul Cullin, (6/8) Pokadelphia, (6/15) The Juveniles, and (6/22) Tahira. For more information, please visit www.newarkde.gov
- **Iron Hill Park Hikes** - The Friends of Iron Hill Park are leading hikes again this year at Iron Hill Park. The plan is to have hikes on the second Saturday of each month April through November at 9am. All hikers will meet at the Iron Hill Park pavilion at 9am. and hikes are about an hour. Come join the Friends for a hike through the beautiful and historic setting of Iron Hill Park. For questions, please contact derunnerguy@yahoo.com.
- **A New Night Downtown Newark** - Saturday, June 10th, 3:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Join Newark's premier street festival as we celebrate the beginning of summer in our great City, on our Great American Main Street. Stroll from curb to curb as the street is closed to vehicular traffic and our businesses and community organizations show off their best wares, services and foods.
- **Brookside 4th Annual Car Show** - Saturday, June 17th, 11:00 a.m. - 4 p.m. 390 East Chestnut Hill Road (Across from the Shoprite). All year makes and models are welcome with a registration fee of \$15.00. Highlights will include a 50/50 drawing, door prizes, trophies, and food & drinks sales. Rain date June 18th.
- **Newark's 4th of July Fireworks** - Tuesday, July 4th, 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Great food, fun entertainment and a pyrotechnic show that gets better every year at the UD Athletic Complex. The annual Independence Day celebration, held at the University of Delaware Athletic Complex, is filled with great activities and has plenty of space to enjoy the sun and then the fireworks. Fine arts and crafts booths are available and games abound for the kids. Live musical entertainment begins at 6 p.m. (Rain date - July 5th; Fireworks only). For additional information, please call the Newark Parks and Recreation Office at 302-366-7000.

Looking Ahead

- **Windy Hills Community Yard Sale** - Saturday, October 14th, 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. There is nothing like getting up early on a Saturday morning and scouting out neighborhood yard sales!