# Summer 2014 Newsletter

From the desk of

# David L. Tackett

Dear Neighbors,

Just as a reminder, I am here to represent your needs. If you have any County related issues, please feel free to contact my office at anytime. Here are a few things that New Castle County can assist you with:

- Land Use issues, such as building permits
- Parks maintenance and permits
- Sewers and Storm Water Ponds
- Property maintenance, code enforcement
- Senior centers & youth activities
- Property taxes & exemptions
- Public Safety
- Check out the website for current events and resources at <a href="www.nccde.org">www.nccde.org</a>

My office maintains a confidential e-mail list to which I periodically send out updates and information to keep communities informed of various events and news in the County. If you would be interested in receiving e-mail updates please contact me and provide your e-mail address.

Whether you think you may have a problem that falls under my duties, or if you are not even sure where to begin, please do not hesitate to give me a call at (302) 395-8371 or e-mail me at <a href="mailto:dltackett@nccde.org">dltackett@nccde.org</a>. I work for you!

Sincerely,





# **Summer in New Castle County**

The warm weather is finally here and the kids are deciding how to spend their summer vacation. Now is a great time check out what the County has to offer for the season. You can pick up a copy of the Happenings guide at your local library or government office or you can check it out on the website under Services /Sports & Recreation.

The Happenings Guide is a 62 page publication that lists all of the activities and events that are happening around New Castle County. There are Sports and Day Camps for the kids, exercise, education and art classes for all ages, a senior luau, festivals, volunteer opportunities, special events and more. Our own Glasgow Park has a Skateboard Camp for ages 8-18 June 23-27, 9am-12pm and August 4-8, 9am-12pm as well as a Tennis Camp for ages 8-12 July 14-18, 9am-12pm. You can register at NCCDE.ORG/SPORTS or call 302-395-5890.



GOVERNMENT BUSINESS SERVICES HOW DO I

NEW CASTLE COUNTY

DELAWARE

Do you have some projects or some home improvements you want to get done over the Summer? Make sure you find out what the County requires before you begin!

Visit www.nccde.org/174/Land-Use
Or call 302-395-5555

### Some FAQ's:

Q:Do I need a permit for an above Ground Pool?

A:Pools capable of holding 2 feet of water or more require a building permit. All Pools must meet strict requirements including fencing and self latching gate.

Q:What are the permit requirements for refinishing or remodeling my kitchen or bathroom?

### A: A building permit is not required for:

New floor coverings
Cabinet re-facing or replacement
Paint or drywall repair
Tile work

Countertop or vanity replacement Sink or disposal replacement Addition of a dishwasher to existing plumbing

### A building permit is required for:

Moving, replacing or constructing new walls or partitions

Relocating or installing new plumbing fixtures

Relocating or creating new windows, doors, or steps of any kind

Q: Do I need a permit to install a fence?

A: **No**, but a call to Land Use to check and make sure you are within the required setbacks would be a wise thing to do. 395-5555.

All this information and much more is on the newly redesigned New Castle County webpage. The updates were designed to help residents find the information they need in 3 clicks or less. The new format is very user friendly and organized so that a brand new user can find their way around easily. Of course, my office is always available to assist you, but this is great tool for you and your community to use and has a wealth of information available for you.

www.nccde.org Check it out!

**Is there a killer in your basement?** According to both the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the American Lung Association, radon is the second-leading cause of lung cancer in the nation, second only to smoking. And it's the sixth-leading cause of all cancer deaths combined, responsible for about 20,000 lung cancer deaths every year.

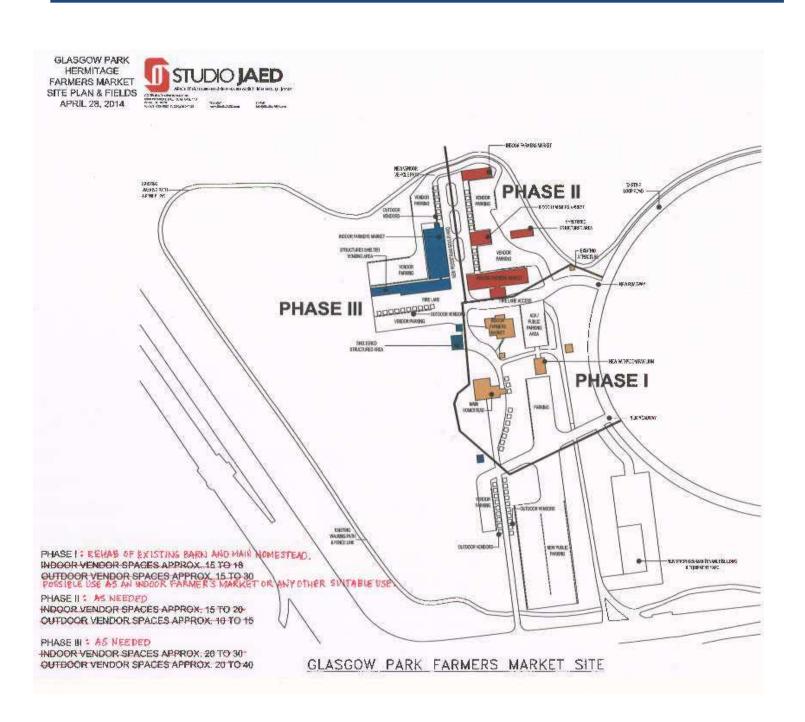
What exactly is radon? Radon is an invisible, odorless, tasteless and radioactive gas that occurs naturally in rocks and soils throughout the world. It rises through cracks in the ground and in basements of buildings, where it collects, increasing the concentration that is inhaled. Radon may be found in older homes and buildings, and in newer ones as well. In fact, since newer homes are more airtight than older ones, they often allow higher concentrations of radon to accumulate. Radon can be found in one house not in the one next door. So you must test your home to see if you or your family is at risk.

Test kits are available at most hardware stores. You can even find out if you qualify for a free radon test kit.

Contact the Delaware Division of Public Health Radon Office or call 1-800-464-HELP.



Plans are in the works to rehab the old buildings at Glasgow Park and the area surrounding them. Some of the expected uses will be for an indoor Farmers Market and sheltered vendor area, along with addition visitor parking. We also expect additional sheltered structures to be used for community events like concerts and festivals. See the preliminary plan below for details.



### Services for 50+ Guidebook

New Castle County has many pro- ◆ grams and opportunities for resi- + dents who are over the age of Fifty. ◆ The Services for Delawareans 50+ guide booklet is available through ◆ Book Buddy Program Councilman Tackett's office or by ◆ calling the New Castle County ◆ AARP Tax Aide Government center at 302-395- ◆ Minor Home Repair program 5101 and requesting a copy. Here ◆ Home Repair Loan Program is a list of just some of the services • offered.

- Senior Centers,
- Recreation centers
- **Art Studios**
- Sports and Athletic leagues (ages 50+)
- AARP Driver's Safety

- Emergency Home Repair Loan **Program**

- Architectural Accessibility Program
- Roll Call Lifeline operated by the New Castle County Police Department
- 911 Special Needs registry
- Senior Discounts on Property Taxes, sewer bills and dog licenses to eligible residents 65 or older.
- Volunteer opportunities

### **New Castle County Property Maintenance Code**

New Castle County's code inspectors respond to complaints regarding potential code violations by inspecting the property. If a violation is found then the property owner is sent a violation notice and given time to respond and correct the issue. If the problem still exists after several days (usually 12) when the property is again inspected, a ticket will be issued. If the violation is still not corrected, additional tickets may be issued until it is fixed. Most common violations in residential areas are:

- Overgrown grass and weeds: Grass must be maintained at a height of eight inches or less.
- Structures in disrepair: Doors, windows, roofing, as well as accessory structures such as sheds and fences, must be maintained in good repair.
- **Vehicles:** Motor vehicles and trailers on your property must be operable and have up-to-date registration. Vehicles, including boats and boat trailers, must be on a hardened surface.
- Debris and junk: The yard should be free of debris, miscellaneous junk, branches, etc. Appliances and bulk items such as stoves, refrigerators, furniture and tires, are considered debris and must not be left out on the property.
- **Trash:** Trash and garbage awaiting pick up should be stored in lidded containers at all times.
- Animal feces: Should not be allowed to accumulate. Droppings should be cleaned up daily. Enforced through the police, pet owners are responsible for cleaning up feces deposited by their pets on others' properties within one hour.
- Swimming pools: All pools capable of holding more than two feet of water (including above-ground pools) require a building permit. All pools must meet strict requirements including fencing, self-latching gate and, if applicable, electrical standards.
- **Encroachment on sidewalk:** Bushes, hedges, fences, or tree limbs must not encroach on the sidewalk. No branch should be lower than seven feet over the sidewalk.
- Vacant homes: Any home that is vacant must be maintained as if it were occupied. The grass and shrubs must be trimmed, the exterior in good repair, and doors and windows secured.
- Home based businesses: There are many restrictions on home-based businesses to protect the residential nature of the community. Before beginning a home-based business, check with Land Use regarding the regulations and restrictions. Also, be certain to check your community's deed restrictions.

If you know a house is vacant or the grass is continually not being cut then make sure to report the issue before the grass is too high. Remember there is a time period that has to elapse before we, County Code, can address the issue. The property owner typically has 2 weeks to resolve the issue.

Submit Complaints at www.nccde.org/251/complaints or call 302-395-5555.



### **NEW SIGNS**

The New Castle County Police Department will be posting our "PARK SMART" signs in various locations throughout New Castle County, to include our County parklands and libraries. We will also be posting our "Smart Tips" on our website and our other social media sites.

Check out the New Castle County Police Department App. Search New Castle County, at the App Store or go to <a href="http://www.delaware.gov/apps/">http://www.delaware.gov/apps/</a> to look at what apps are available from Delaware government—including DelDOT.



## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Customer Information	395-5555 - General Information, Complaints, Code Enforcement	
Land Use	395-5400 - Building Permits, Assessment, Zoning	
DE Animal Care & Control	698-3006 - Dog Control (or 888-352-7722)	
Community Services	395-5600 - Community Resources	
Park Permits	571-4006 - Reserve a pavilion or athletic court	
Treasury	323-2600 - School and Property Tax Bills	
Special Services	395-5700 - Sewer, Park maintenance	
Poison Control	800-722-7112 - Information 24 hours a day	
Human Resources	395-5180 - Job Hotline: 395-JOBS(5627)	
DelDOT Hotline	323-1111(7:30am-4pm) 695-2400(after 4pm) Road Maintenance	
Recorder of Deeds	395-7700 - General Information	
Register of Wills	395-7800 - General Information	
Sports and Athletics	395-5890 - General Information	
Police /Public Safety	395-8171 - General Information	
Delmarva	800-375-7117 - Street Lights	
DE Humane:	302-571-0111	Report crime, suspicious vehicles
Kent County SPCA	302-698-3006	or persons by calling <b>911</b> or the
Police Non-Emergency	302-573-2800	police non-emergency number
Emergencies:	911	302-573-2800.

### Contact me:

**Councilman Dave Tackett** 

302-395-8351

DLTackett@nccde.org
WWW.nccde.org/tackett

Legislative Aide Valerie George 302-395-8371 vgeorge@nccde.org

