



Summer 2013  
MUNICIPAL NEWSLETTER



**White Clay Creek Water  
Levels and Our Water Supply**

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### City Council

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<b>Council</b>		
District 1	Mark Morehead	MarkNewarkFirst@aol.com
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District 5	Luke R. Chapman, CFP®	luke@chapmanfornewark.com
District 6	Stuart Markham	stu.markham@gmail.com

## Americans with Disabilities Act

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) provides protection for disabled individuals with respect to employment, public accommodations, public service, and telecommunication. The City of Newark, Delaware is committed in both policy and practice to comply with all provisions of the Act. Through the provision of reasonable accommodations, accessible facilities, auxiliary aids, and telecommunications devices (TDD's), the City desires to make its facilities, programs and services accessible to individuals with disabilities. The City has established procedures to investigate any allegations of non-compliance by the City with the ADA.

Questions, comments and suggestions regarding the implementation of this Act by the City of Newark may be directed to the City Manager's Office, ADA Coordinator, Mr. Andrew Haines, Deputy City Manager, 220 South Main Street, Newark, DE 19711, or by calling (302) 366-7026.

**We're on the web at**

[www.cityofnewarkde.us](http://www.cityofnewarkde.us)

Check it out for information 24/7

### CITY OF NEWARK MUNICIPAL NEWSLETTER

Prepared by the City of Newark, 220 South Main Street, Newark, Delaware 19711 • (302) 366-7000

[www.cityofnewarkde.us](http://www.cityofnewarkde.us)

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Activities: Joe Spadafino, Editor/Recreation Superintendent

The City of Newark Newsletter is e-mailed tri-annually (January, May and August) to Newark residents to provide information on city services, activities and programs. If you have any comments or suggestions regarding the newsletter, please call (302) 366-7020. For additional information on recreation programs or registration, please call (302) 366-7060.



# Municipal Newsletter

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### May

- 2 Spring Concert — 7 p.m. — Academy Lawn
- 7 Planning Commission meeting — 7 p.m. — Municipal Bldg. — Council Chamber
- 8 Downtown Newark Partnership Board meeting — 6 p.m. — Municipal Bldg. — Second Floor
- 9 Spring Concert — 7 p.m. — Academy Lawn
- 13 City Council meeting — 7 p.m. — Municipal Bldg. — Council Chamber
- 14 Conservation Advisory Commission meeting — 7 p.m. — Municipal Bldg. — Second Floor
- 16 Board of Adjustment Meeting — 7 p.m. — Municipal Bldg. — Council Chamber
- 16 Spring Concert — 7 p.m. — Academy Lawn
- 19 78<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day Parade — 1 p.m. — UD Green — Parade at 2 p.m.
- 20 “UDon’t Need It?” Student Move-Out Program through June 2 — Former Curtis Paper Mill
- 21 Newark Traffic Committee meeting — 5 p.m. — Police Department Conference Room
- 23 Spring Concert — 7 p.m. — Academy Lawn
- 27 CITY HOLIDAY — Memorial Day — Offices Closed
- 27 Monday’s refuse will be collected on Tuesday, May 28**
- 28 Tuesday’s refuse will be collected on Wednesday, May 29 \*\*\* NO GREEN WEDNESDAY COLLECTION**
- 28 City Council meeting — 7 p.m. TUESDAY— Municipal Bldg. — Council Chamber
- 30 Spring Concert — 7 p.m. — Academy Lawn

### June

- 1 Newark Day — 12 p.m. - 5 p.m. — Main Street (Rain date — June 2, 12 p.m. - 5 p.m.)
- 4 Planning Commission meeting — 7 p.m. — Municipal Bldg. — Council Chamber
- 6 Spring Concert — 7 p.m. — Academy Lawn
- 10 City Council meeting — 7 p.m. — Municipal Bldg. — Council Chamber
- 11 Dickey and George Wilson Parks’ Swimming Pools Open
- 11 Conservation Advisory Commission meeting — 7 p.m. — Municipal Bldg. — Second Floor
- 13 Spring Concert — 7 p.m. — Academy Lawn
- 18 Newark Traffic Committee meeting — 5 p.m. — Police Department Conference Room
- 20 Board of Adjustment Meeting — 7 p.m. — Municipal Bldg. — Council Chamber
- 20 Spring Concert — 7 p.m. — Academy Lawn
- 24 City Council meeting — 7 p.m. — Municipal Bldg. — Council Chamber

### July

- 2 Planning Commission meeting — 7 p.m. — Municipal Bldg. — Council Chamber
- 3 Thursday’s recycling will be collected on Wednesday, July 3 \*\*\*NO GREEN WEDNESDAY YARD WASTE COLLECTION\*\*\***
- 4 CITY HOLIDAY — Independence Day — Offices Closed
- 4 Liberty Day Event — 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. — Fireworks display at dusk — UD Athletic Complex (Rain date fireworks only — July 5)
- 5 CITY HOLIDAY — Offices Closed
- 5 No Changes to Friday’s recycling collection schedule**
- 8 City Council meeting — 7 p.m. — Municipal Bldg. — Council Chamber
- 9 Conservation Advisory Commission meeting — 7 p.m. — Municipal Bldg. — Second Floor
- 10 Downtown Newark Partnership Board meeting — 6 p.m. — Municipal Bldg. — Second Floor
- 16 Newark Traffic Committee meeting — 5 p.m. — Police Department Conference Room
- 18 Board of Adjustment Meeting — 7 p.m. — Municipal Bldg. — Council Chamber
- 22 City Council meeting — 7 p.m. — Municipal Bldg. — Council Chamber
- 27 Downtown Newark’s Food & Brew Fest — 2 p.m. - 10 p.m.

### August

- 6 Planning Commission meeting — 7 p.m. — Municipal Bldg. — Council Chamber
- 10 Newark Twilight Criterium Bike Race — 4 p.m. — Downtown
- 12 City Council meeting — 7 p.m. — Municipal Bldg. — Council Chamber
- 13 Conservation Advisory Commission meeting — 7 p.m. — Municipal Bldg. — Second Floor
- 17 Dickey and George Wilson Pools Close
- 18 Top of Newark Triathlon — Newark Reservoir
- 20 Newark Traffic Committee meeting — 5 p.m. — Police Department Conference Room
- 26 City Council meeting — 7 p.m. — Municipal Bldg. — Council Chamber

The 2013 Fall Municipal Newsletter and Parks and Recreation Activity Guide will be e-mailed on Monday, August 19. To be sure you receive the City of Newark’s Municipal E-newsletter and are added to the e-mail list, please visit [www.cityofnewarkde.us](http://www.cityofnewarkde.us).

# City Manager's Message

## Public Power = Hometown Power! Why it's Good for Newark...

Having a Hometown Power Company (also known as Public Power) is good for Newark for three reasons: highly reliable service, local control of our utility by the community, and friendly local customer service. Additionally, the revenues generated from the sale of electric remain in our community funding the utility and supporting other necessary services that you, our citizens, enjoy. These services include your parks and recreation programs and facilities, refuse and recycling collection, snow removal, special events, economic development, and roadways. If we were served by an investor owned utility, all the money goes out of the community to the utility and its investors. Without the electric utility, the city would have to raise taxes and fees to support our robust community services.

Reliability of electric service in our community is a paramount goal. Newark operates a 24-person Electric Department that supports the delivery of electric service to the homes and businesses in our community. Our utility alone funds our personnel, equipment, materials, and training. Our service reliability program that was established years ago has proven to drastically reduce the amount and duration of outages. The reliability program includes a year round tree trimming schedule, the installation of squirrel guards on all aerial transformers, the installation of additional lightning arresters on all circuits, and twice a year infrared inspections of all aerial facilities.



*Newark Electric crews working through a snow storm to restore power*

Fortunately in 1979 six Delaware public power utilities, including Newark, joined together to form the Delaware Municipal Electric Corporation (DEMEC) to pursue joint efficiencies and the delivery of low-cost, reliable electric service. The DEMEC model (more accurately referred to as a Joint Action Agency) allows the needs of the combined member communities to be met while pooling resources to fund the work DEMEC does on our behalf and to benefit from each other's initiatives and information sharing.

Today DEMEC has nine member municipalities and self-supplies 45% of its energy and capacity requirements from owned assets. Over the years DEMEC has increased its value. All member cities benefit from DEMEC's professional staff, expertise and constant focus on electric supply while we're busy running a city. DEMEC has developed fuel resource diversity, adding solar and wind generation to our supply stream, and reducing coal usage by 73% between 2008 and 2013. DEMEC also provides more offerings to members, such as renewable energy resources, energy efficiency programs, assistance with funding and implementing local projects, and staff training and certification for our utility workers. We are currently excited about a project that we have worked on with DEMEC recently that may bring Newark's first public community solar installation to a property that used to be a landfill off of Cleveland Avenue (final decisions will be made in May). What could be better than to allow this piece of property to add value to our community once again! Additionally, as a result of DEMEC's leadership and support from the other eight member cities we were able to recently negotiate a 15-year electric service agreement with the University of Delaware. As Newark's largest electric customer this agreement has a positive impact on our revenues and ability to keep rates stable.

### Keeping it local... here are some important tips regarding your electric service:

- If you ever come across a wire that is hanging low or touching the ground, stay clear and call 9-1-1 and report it immediately.
- If you are going to be digging on your property, call Miss Utility at 8-1-1.
- Thinking about planting a tree? Then please select the right tree for the right place and consider the shape and size of the tree in 20 years so it doesn't interfere with aerial power lines.
- The smart meter installation is set to begin this spring, bringing the modern electric grid to your doorstep.
- We encourage you to register for Newark's InformMe citizen notification system so that you can easily be made aware of any infrastructure maintenance or service needs as well as other information related to city operations. This registration can be completed at [www.cityofnewarkde.us/InformMe](http://www.cityofnewarkde.us/InformMe).

In closing, public power in the form of hometown power companies has been around since 1880. There are over 2,000 public power communities in the US, many of them over 100 years old, which benefit from the local control and high reliability of service that is the hallmark of public power.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol J. Houck". The signature is fluid and cursive.

## April Election and District Four's New Council Member



*City Secretary Renee Bensley swears in Mayor Funk who is accompanied by his wife Elaine*

Congratulations to incumbents Vance Funk, Mark Morehead, and Jerry Clifton! Because only one candidate filed for Mayor, District One and for District Two, the Newark Municipal Code states that the candidates shall assume the office and no formal election is required. The Mayor will serve another three-year term and the Council Members will serve another two-year term.

**Mr. Funk** was first elected Mayor in 2004 making this his fourth term in office.

**Mr. Morehead** represents District One, which represents the western segment of the City. He was first elected in 2011.

**Mr. Clifton** represents District Two, which encompasses the eastern segment of the City. He was first elected in 1997.

This year, an election was held for the office of District Four Council Member, which encompasses the central segment of the City, often referred to as the "old Newark" section of town. Four residents filed for candidacy by the March 18 deadline. Margrit Hadden won the election with 95 votes. The other candidates included Ron Walker receiving 86 votes, Sherry Hoffman receiving 25 votes and Robyn Harland receiving 12 votes.

The election was held on April 9.

On Tuesday, April 16, an organizational meeting was held and Mayor Funk and Council Members Morehead, Clifton and Hadden were administered the oath of office. Council also elected Jerry Clifton as Deputy Mayor. Clifton, who has represented District Two since 1997, has served as Deputy Mayor since 2005.



*City Secretary Renee Bensley issuing the oath of office to District 1 Council Member Mark Morehead, District 2 Council Member Jerry Clifton, and District 4 Council Member Margrit Hadden*



# Newark Seeks Public Input to Update the City's Comprehensive Development Plan

At *Newark Day 2012*, the City of Newark held its “kick-off” for public outreach on the fifth update to the City's Comprehensive Development Plan, a document adopted by the City that puts forward in words, maps, illustrations, and tables the blueprint for the City to achieve a vision, address short- and long-range planning concerns, and provide a rational basis for local land use decisions.

The Planning Commission held a series of workshops on topics related to the Comprehensive Plan, such as Transit, Housing, Bicycling, environmental quality, and economic development in an effort to hear concerns from *stakeholders* (any person, group, organization, or agency that has a vested interest, present or future, in the outcome of the planning process) and explain the importance of a comprehensive plan and the importance of participating in the process of planning. So far, over 140 Newark stakeholders have participated in one or more of the Planning Commission workshops. This summer, the Planning Commission will begin the hard work of drafting a plan and developing the goals and strategies that will guide the City's development over the next five (5) years. There are still lots of opportunities to get involved to express your views and vision for Newark.

Why are comprehensive plans important? Planning and Urban Design Standards, published by the American Planning Association, list six (6) fundamental reasons for local governments to plan:

- **View the “Big Picture”.** Planning is an opportunity to take a broad look at issues ranging from housing, economic development, transportation, public infrastructure, and environmental quality, and see how they interconnect. It attempts to look at the “big picture” and how it relates to regional trends, as well as the community's “sense of place”.
- **Coordinate local decision making.** The process of planning results in the adoption of a series of goals and strategies that guide the City in its daily decisions, and provides a way to coordinate the actions with other local government agencies. Our community is not an island, so regional cooperation makes good sense because we may live in one community, but work or shop, or use a variety of services in another.
- **Give guidance to landowners and developers.** A comprehensive plan is a statement of how the City intends to use public investment and land development controls. Therefore, the private sector can use the plan to get a sense of where the community's priorities are and the direction that it is headed in terms of the physical, social, economic, and transportation future.
- **Establish a sound basis in fact for decisions.** A comprehensive plan provides information and analysis that gives policy makers a tool and basis of fact for land-use decisions. As a result, the Plan offers a level of consistency of government action and limits potential for arbitrariness.
- **Involve a broad array of interests in a discussion about the long-range future.** Citizens participating in planning decision-making is an essential part of a democratic system of government. The planning process involves outreach to, and active participation of, a variety of stakeholders, including elected and appointed officials, city staff, residents from all areas of the community, business, industry and civic leaders to engage in a discussion about the community's major physical, environmental, social, and economic development priorities.
- **Build an informed constituency.** Planning workshops, meetings, surveys, and public hearings create a two-way dialog between citizens and city officials regarding a vision of the community and how that vision is to be achieved. In turn, this process builds an informed constituency that can be involved in planning initiatives, review of proposals for plan consistency, and collaborative implementation. Planning creates the opportunity for residents to learn how economy, housing base, unique environment, and historical characteristics are linked. And, by anticipating change and development, the community can be in better position to shape it and address concerns that preserve the core of their community.

A final draft of the Plan is anticipated to be ready for City Council's approval by October 2013. For additional information, please contact Michael Fortner, Development Supervisor, Planning and Development Department, at (302) 366-7030 or at [mfortner@newark.de.us](mailto:mfortner@newark.de.us).



Saturday, June 1

12 p.m. – 5 p.m.

The rain date for this event  
is Sunday, June 2.

The annual community event, formerly known as “Newark Nite,” hosts 30,000 people enjoying several stages of live music and entertainment. The springtime celebration began in 1986 to bring the community together, including the University of Delaware, to welcome summer. It helps reacquaint people with businesses and restaurants in Newark as well as offering the opportunity to walk down the center of Main Street.

As is tradition, Main Street is closed to traffic and pedestrians take over. The street is filled with live music and performances, arts and crafts, great food, shopping, games, and children’s activities. Restaurants and stores on Main Street are open during the event and many have booths on Main Street just for the event. Tune in to Newark TV 22 and the City’s website for a schedule of performers and activities as the event nears.

Main Street will be closed to traffic beginning at 10:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. the day of the event to allow enough time for vendor set up and tear down. Pets are not comfortable in the heat and crowds of large events, so for their safety and the safety of those attending the event, please leave your pets at home.

For cancellation information, please call (302) 366-7147.

## Project Adds Parking Spaces Downtown

The City of Newark has placed thirteen new parking meters in the loading zones throughout downtown after conducting a pilot program that began last fall meant to increase the inventory of available parking spaces. The program allows parking in loading zones after normal delivery hours of 1:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., when the loading zone would be used by delivery trucks.



Parking meters in the loading zone are painted green to easily differentiate them from the rest of the parking meters on Main Street. The meter “sleeps” between the hours of 1:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., so if someone parks in the spot before 4:00 p.m., the meter will not register their payment since parking is not permitted during that time. Additionally, the meters are well-signed with signs posted on either side of the loading zone, on the meter and inside the meter.

There is the potential to add a total of 48 meters to the inventory for evening use as the project continues to be evaluated. Allowing parking in the loading zones of downtown Newark after normal delivery hours increases available parking spaces at minimal costs and takes advantage of underutilized space at premium downtown locations.



## Improving the Streets of Newark

In 2013, \$1,00,000 has been appropriated to restore City maintained roads under Newark's Street Improvement Program. Your Public Works and Water Resources Department conducts a visual inspection and assessment each year to determine street improvement priorities. Based on the department's recommendation, allocations from the City's budget, State Community Transportation Funds (S.C.T.F.), and Municipal Street Aid are used to repair our roadways and replace curbs.

**Special thanks go out to Senator Hall-Long and Representatives Schooley and Kowalko for recommending a total of \$215,000 from the State Community Transportation Fund to assist Newark.** The remaining \$785,000 is allocated in the City's Capital Program.

A combination of S.C.T.F. and City funds will provide for curb replacement, milling and resurfacing of roadways on Arbour Drive from Lark Drive to Oriole Drive, Dallam Road from Bent Lane to Radcliffe Drive, and Rockmoss Avenue from Webb Road to Rahway Drive.

Roads in which City funds will be used for curb replacement, milling and resurfacing of the roadways include:

Kent Way - South College Avenue to Orchard Road

Vassar Drive - Casho Mill Road to Lafayette Road

Old Oak Road - West Main Street to Dallam Road

Susquehanna Circle - Swarthmore Drive to cul-de-sac

Fairfield Drive - Cambridge Drive to cul-de-sac

Fairvalley Court - Delrem Drive to cul-de-sac

### **Optional Streets (if funding is available)**

Elkton secondary road from Chrysler Avenue to Short Lane

Short Lane from Elkton Road to Lehigh Road



## **Flood Insurance —Do you need it?**

You may want to consider obtaining flood insurance if you live in the 100-year floodplain along the main channels of the Christina and White Clay Creeks. Homes built before the adoption of City floodplain regulations may likely be at greater risk of flooding during a severe storm.

Be advised that most homeowners' policies specifically exclude damage caused by floodwaters from rising water, inadequate drainage and wind driven rain. Fortunately, the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) will provide this important insurance to Newark property owners that reside in a floodplain.

This protection has been made available to Newark and other communities that have taken steps to manage and reduce the chances for local residential flooding. Our rigorous floodplain regulations, rated a "Class 7" designation by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, allows Newark residents to take advantage of flood insurance premiums that are 15% lower than the national average. We are proud to acknowledge that our "Class 7" rating is the highest rating of any city in the State of Delaware.

The NFIP coverage is available to any Newark owner or renter of insurable property. To purchase NFIP flood insurance, contact any licensed property insurance agency or broker. If you are not sure if your property is located within the 100-year floodplain of the Christina or White Clay Creeks, please call the Planning and Development Department at (302) 366-7030. Floodplain maps and NFIP brochures are available at both the Planning and Development Department and the Newark Free Library.



## White Clay Creek Water Levels and Our Water Supply

The White Clay Creek provides about 50% of our potable water. Our use of the Creek as a water supply is permitted as long as we allow 14 Million Gallons a Day (MGD) to flow by for downstream users, fish and wildlife. Now that we have the reservoir on line we have been able to store water when the creek flows are high and use that water when the creek flow falls below 14 MGD.

In a normal year we find that creek levels are able to recharge during the fall, winter and spring so that we have just a short period during the summer when we need to use the reservoir. In that "normal year" we would expect to see water levels at or around the average as we leave spring and enter the summer. This season we have seen a disturbing trend where the creek level has remained below the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile of all readings for a given day for the 19 years that data has been available.



We are concerned, should this trend continue, that we will need to start using the reservoir earlier than we ever have and deal with maintenance issues that we have only had to make plans for in the past.

While every day is a good day to be aware of how much water one is using, this year could be the best example of why wise water use is important.

If you would like information about how you can save water, please refer to our web site or give us a call at (302)366-7055 and we would be happy to talk with you.

## Water Conservation Tips and Techniques

### Water Conservation Devices

The city has available water conservation devices including low-flow shower heads and water saving devices to retrofit older plumbing fixtures. We also notify our customers when we believe that there may be a leak on their property. If requested, we will do what we can to identify the source of the leak.

Water conservation is an important part of our program and everyone's involvement is important. Here are ways that you can help.

### Checking for Leaks

If you think that you have a leak, you can perform the following check.

- Turn off all water in the house and make sure that it remains off while you perform the following check.
- With the water off locate the water meter and observe the face of the meter. On the face there will be one or more of the following: An analog counter that looks like the odometer on a car, a dial that rotates when water is being used and a small star, triangle, or other similar shape which is a leak detector. If there is a leak, the leak detector will be moving at a rate consistent with the size of the leak.
- Check faucets for drips including outdoor fixtures.

Another likely source is the toilet tank. Using food coloring, or tablets that we have available at the Public Works and Water Resources Department office, color the water in the toilet tank on the back of the toilet. After about 30 minutes, and without using the toilet, check the bowl to see if the water has changed color or remains clear. If the water has changed color the flap valve is bad and needs to be replaced or repaired. A plumber can do this for you or you can get the needed parts at your local hardware store.



78<sup>th</sup>

# Memorial Day Parade

**Sunday, May 19, 2013  
Annual Ceremony & Parade**

The Memorial Day Ceremony on the University of Delaware Green begins at 1:00 p.m. The events include drills, the presentation of flags and patriotic music as we honor those that have lost their lives in service to our country.

The 78<sup>th</sup> Annual Memorial Day Parade will follow at 2:00 p.m. with marching units representing all branches of the service, veteran’s organizations, schools and community organizations parading down Main Street displaying the pride of our nation.

Bring your family for a special day in May!

## 7th Annual



### STUDENT MOVE-OUT PROGRAM

The “UDon’t Need It?” Student Move Out Program will take place from **May 20 through June 2, 2013** at the former Curtis Paper Mill site on Paper Mill Road. *Sales to the public will begin on Tuesday, May 28.*

The program’s success is a direct result of the cooperation and enthusiasm of the UD students, whose strong participation has led to increased diversion of materials from the landfill.



### When Does the City Collect Yard Waste?

Yard waste collections take place on Green Wednesdays. Mid-March through December the program does not require residents to call Public Works and Water Resources to schedule a pick-up. Simply place your yard waste at your curb in a trash can (NO BAGS) weighing less than forty (40) lbs. **(you may purchase an additional “Yard Waste Only” cart from the City (preferred) or use your regular refuse cart without trash and tape a “Yard Waste Only” sign on the side)**, or bundles less than forty (40) lbs. and less than four (4) feet long prior to 7:00 a.m. There is no charge for any combination of six (6) cans or bundles at one pick-up time. A fee will be assessed for more than six (6) items without prior notification. *January through mid-March the program is on winter schedule and residents must schedule a pick-up by calling the (302) 366-7045.*

Yard waste includes: branches, brush, garden debris (dirt-free), landscape trimmings and grass.

**\*\*Residents are encouraged to grass cycle by leaving the clippings on your lawn. This environmentally sound practice feeds nutrients back to your lawn.\*\***

#### Special Notes

Yard waste should not be put out for collection on normal household trash collection days. If you do this, it will not be taken away by the trash collector. Similarly, trash should not be put out with the yard waste on Wednesdays. All yard waste must be separated from trash as per City Code. **There will not be any yard waste pick-up on weeks containing a City holiday because these Wednesdays are used for regular trash collection.**

## TREES – PART ONE OF A SERIES ON THEIR BEAUTY, USE, & MAINTENANCE

*By Tom Zaleski, City of Newark Park Superintendent*

Trees can enhance the value and beauty of any home or building, but like anything else they need to be properly planted and maintained so not to become a liability. Trees help to cool buildings during the summer by providing shade and dropping their leaves in the fall to let the light through to help provide heat to buildings, assist in stormwater management by taking up water, give wildlife a place to live and feed, and to provide a more welcoming environment in which to live and work. In short, trees are a worthwhile investment.

The first thing to remember is to plant the right tree in the right place. You do not want to plant a tree that gets 35 to 40 feet tall or taller under or near power lines as they will eventually grow into those lines requiring severe pruning and possible power outages in times of bad weather. You would also not plant this same tree right next to your house or a building because as the tree grows, conflicts could arise between the tree and the walls, roof, and foundation of the structure. A smaller tree, perhaps 10-20 feet tall would do fine in this situation. A basic rule to follow is to not plant a tall growing tree any closer than 30-35 feet of a power line and 20-25 feet of a building. It is important to give larger trees like Maples, Oaks and Sweet Gum, to name a few, this room to grow so they will not interfere with overhead utilities or structures.

Proper planting of the tree is critical to ensure a long lived healthy tree. Trees come one of three ways; balled and burlapped (or referred to as B and B), containerized, or bare root (meaning no soil around the root system). When planting a tree no matter which way it comes, the soil level at completion of planting the tree should not cover the root flare. The root flare is the area at the base of the tree trunk where it thickens and the major roots start breaking away from the trunk. If balled and burlapped, after placing the tree in the hole at the proper depth (the hole should be two times as wide as the ball) and straight, cut and remove the top 1/3 to 1/2 of the wire basket holding the ball together, then remove any string and fold down the burlap into the hole. If the tree comes containerized, remove the tree from the pot and using a shovel or knife, cut 5 to 6 slits down the sides of the root ball. Then using your fingers, break apart the mass of roots to encourage the new roots to grow out into the soil. Should your tree be bare rooted, it is best to soak the root system in a water and diluted liquid fertilizer mixture for 24 hours prior to planting. Dig the hole a little wider than the root mass and form a mound of soil in the bottom of the hole for the tree to sit on while backfilling the hole. While backfilling the hole it is very important to try to shape and direct the roots within the backfill soil as if they were still in the soil.

After the tree is planted it needs time to establish itself in the new site. In the first year do not expect to see much top growth as the tree is putting all its energy into making a new root system. The second year some top growth will be seen, but the roots are still taking priority. It is the third year in which the tree will show increased top growth. During this establishment period, it is very important to keep the tree watered and not to let it dry out. The general "rule of thumb" for tree watering is for each inch in caliber of the tree (a measurement taken 4 1/2' up the tree trunk) you should water the tree one year. In short, if you plant a 2-inch caliber tree then that tree must be watered for two full years.

It is also important to place mulch around the base of the tree to keep the soil cool for roots to establish themselves and to retain moisture while keeping out weed/turf competition and prevent possible damage from lawn mowing. When mulching a tree do not make the mulch layer thicker than 2 inches, but no less than 1-1 1/4 inches thick. It is important not to place the mulch directly against the tree trunk as this could cause insect and disease issues. As you go out from the tree trunk gradually increase the thickness of the mulch. The mulched area or ring should, at a minimum, go out to the edges of the branches also called the drip line at the tree. I recommend going out past the drip line to give the tree even more area of cool, moist soil in which to grow.

Trees taller than 6 feet should be staked with support guy wires to keep the tree from rocking and swaying for the first year. Where the wire goes around the tree trunk from the supporting stakes, use cut sections of rubber hose with the wire running through the hose to protect the tree trunk from being injured. Remove the guy wire and stakes after one 12 month period.

In the next article, tree maintenance will be covered along with the reasons why maintenance is needed.



## Skate Spot Project Moving Forward

The City of Newark is planning to construct two skate spots, one at Phillips Park and Handloff Park. We hope to begin construction this summer. The design/build contract was awarded to Grindline Concrete Skatepark Design and Construction of Seattle, Washington.

Skate spots are smaller versions of skate parks that feature a plaza style design which may include stairs, railings, ramps and ledges. Each skate spot will be approximately 3,000 square foot, about the size of a tennis court.

The City of Newark has secured \$160,000 for the skate spot project. The City budget allocated \$40,000 in the 2012 capital improvement budget, a private donation of \$40,000 and a grant through the Delaware land and water conservation trust fund for \$80,000.

A workshop was held on March 13 to give local skateboarders an opportunity to express their design ideas to Grindline Skatepark Lead Designer Micah Shapiro. Final designs should be completed in May.

## Curtis Mill Park Update

Earlier this spring city staff and DeIDOT completed a review of the preliminary design plans for the Curtis Mill Park project. We hope to approve the final plan this summer and prepare drawings and contract documents for the advertisement and award of a construction contract by late summer or early fall. Construction will take several months to complete.

The project will include the construction of a park entrance at the existing traffic light at Paper Mill and Old Paper Mill Roads, minor improvements to Paper Mill Road and the traffic signals, a 12 to 15 car parking lot, a plaza which will contain kiosks with educational and interpretive information and photographs of the former paper mill, a meadow, landscaping, and internal walkways. We salvaged a large number of bricks from the smoke stack which will be used in the design/construction of the plaza area. The site is being designed as a passive park with the parking lot also serving as a trail head for the Pomeroy and Newark Rail Trail, which is located just south of the Curtis site.



## Please Carry Out What You Carry In *New Trash Policy Instituted in Newark Parks*

The Newark Parks and Recreation Department is asking that all park users adhere to their new trash procedures citing more efficient use of parks staff and equipment, especially with the recent opening of the Pomeroy and Newark Rail Trail and the development of Curtis Mill Park and two skateboard facilities later this year. Much like the Delaware State Parks "carry-in, carry-out" policy regarding trash, Newark Parks and Recreation is requiring that users carry their trash to a container located near the park's parking lot or adjacent street.

Parks trash collection will be taken over by the Refuse Division of the City's Public Works and Water Resources Department utilizing their automated refuse trucks while on their normal trash collection routes. Previously the trash containers were emptied manually, which was a strain to maintenance workers. The trash containers will be located near parking areas or streets that are easily accessible to the trucks and their mechanical lifting arms.

Additionally, the Parks and Recreation Department will discontinue its pilot recycling program it began in December 2011 at certain City parks. Blue recycling containers were placed at several parks, and after analysis of the recycling efforts, it was discovered that the program diverted less than 1,450 pounds of recyclables at a cost of nearly \$15,000. Much of the weight was attributed to liquids left in the plastic and glass bottles that were placed in the recycling containers. Recycling at community events will continue.



## Residential Curbside Recycling

The Residential Curbside Recycling Program just completed its third full year. City residents participating in the program have helped to divert 27% of single family residential from the landfill. The goal is to have a 40% diversion rate. We encourage all residents to participate. Pay close attention to the materials you throw away. Many of them may be recycled. For a list of common materials that can be recycled, please visit the City's website. **THE LIST HAS RECENTLY BEEN EXPANDED.**

Some things to know about the program:

The program is single stream, so ALL recyclables go into the same cart making it easier and more convenient for all users.

Your recycling cart is distinguished by a recycling logo sticker, so you may choose to use either your current refuse cart or your new recycling cart for your recyclables. Recycling dumpsters will be royal blue with white "Recycling Only" lettering on three sides.

Mondays and Tuesdays are for trash collection only. Thursdays and Fridays are for recycling collection only.

If you have any questions regarding the program, please call the Public Works & Water Resources Department at (302) 366-7040 Monday through Friday during normal business hours or visit: [www.cityofnewarkde.us/publicworks](http://www.cityofnewarkde.us/publicworks).

## Rain Barrels

### What is a rain barrel?

A rain barrel collects and stores rain from rooftops. By temporarily holding off water during a rain event, a rain barrel decreases the amount of water running across lawns and roadways where it picks up pollutants. The stormwater then flows into storm drains which empty directly into local waterways, and can cause erosion and pollute drinking water. Collected rainwater can later be used to water lawns, gardens, potted plants, window boxes and street trees.

### Why use one?

- ☛ Reduce your water bill
- ☛ Reduce water pollution
- ☛ Help recharge groundwater

### Where can I get one?

The Delaware Department of Natural Resources & Environmental Control (DNREC) periodically offers a low cost rain barrel program. Contact Sharon Webb, DNREC Nonpoint Source Program, at 302-739-9922, or email [sharon.webb@state.de.us](mailto:sharon.webb@state.de.us)

If you would like information on how to build your own rain barrel, contact Kelley Dinsmore at 302-366-7040, or visit the NPDES Stormwater website at: [www.cityofnewarkde.us/NPDESstormwaterprogram](http://www.cityofnewarkde.us/NPDESstormwaterprogram).

## Promote your City of Newark based event on the City's Website Calendar: Get the attention your events deserve

*It's free and easy!*

Charitable, educational, cultural, or recreation groups may now post events to the City of Newark Online Calendar. Submit your event at least 15 days in advance by going to [www.cityofnewarkde.us](http://www.cityofnewarkde.us). Click on the "Submit Event" button. The site will guide you through the rest of the process. Notices and announcements must contain (1) the name of the group, organization or person sponsoring the event, (2) a concise description of the event, (3) date of the event, and (4) contact information. The events listed in the calendar are for informational purposes only and in no way constitute official approval or endorsement from the City of Newark. All events in the calendar are subject to change.

Calendar

Submit an Event

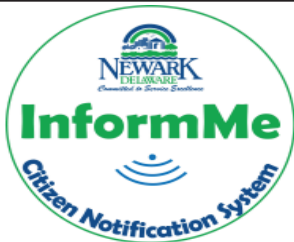


# ALUMNI WEEKEND

2013

Alumni Weekend is the University's premiere alumni event traditionally held on the first weekend of June every year. The weekend is our way of encouraging alumni, friends and families to return to campus and celebrate the qualities that make UD unique. It also provides an opportunity to reconnect with friends and professors and to witness the remarkable changes at the University over the past few years. Dr. Harker's goals, laid out in his Path to Prominence plan, are met here by incorporating fun activities with academic initiatives that engage Blue Hens, friends and families.

The weekend's signature programs include college receptions and Mug Night Dela-bration on The Green on Friday and Saturday features the Blue Hen 5K, Blue Hen Brunch on The Green, college event showcases (where colleges and departments showcase their new initiatives and work), Dr. Harker's town hall-style meeting called State of the University, the Alumni Wall of Fame ceremony and class reunion celebrations for the 5th, 10th, 15th, 20th, 25th and 50th reunion classes. UD's 5th annual Alumni Weekend will be held on May 31-June 2. Register now at [www.UDconnection.com/AlumniWeekend](http://www.UDconnection.com/AlumniWeekend).



## The City of Newark's Citizen Notification System

The new notification system provides you with the opportunity to select the city information you want to receive and the delivery method(s) through which you want to receive it. You will automatically receive emergency alerts and may also choose to receive community alerts, which include service reminders, utility alerts such as water main breaks and water main flushing, crime alerts, traffic alerts, etc. To sign up, go to

[www.cityofnewarkde.us/InformMe](http://www.cityofnewarkde.us/InformMe)

**BIKE TO WORK, NEWARK!**

THE LEAGUE » NATIONAL BIKE MONTH

WHERE WILL THE RIDE TAKE YOU?

Newark Bicycle Committee

EVENT PARTNERS

NEWARK DELAWARE  
Committed to Service Excellence

Dare to be first.  
UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

MAY 8, 2013  
BIKE TO SCHOOL DAY

MAY 13-17, 2013  
BIKE TO WORK WEEK

MAY 14, 2013  
BIKE TO WORK DAY  
in Newark

May 14 from 7:30-10:00 a.m. at the Trabant University Center patio  
(corner of Delaware & South College Avenues)