



**Compliments of Bob Weiner, your County Councilman  
"Making County Government Work for Us"  
Council District 2, New Castle County, DE  
[Bob@bobweiner.com](mailto:Bob@bobweiner.com)  
[lhinkle@nccde.org](mailto:lhinkle@nccde.org)  
Louis Hinkle, aide to Councilman Weiner: 302-395-8362**

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**Attention civic leaders: you may want to share this electronic newsletter with your neighbors!**

***Hot Topics!***

- \* Join your Councilman Bob Weiner at Tails and Trails at Talley Day County Park**
- \*Open Houses for Curatorship Program**
- \*Upcoming events in support of the Delaware SPCA**
- \*New Castle County Department of Special Services Spring Stormwater Management Newsletter**
- \*The latest edition of the New Castle County Council newsletter, "The Council Courier."**
- \*"New Castle County targets 100-year life for rehabilitated sewers."**
- \*An Open Letter to Our Civic Association Officers And Community Leaders from Bob Weiner**

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**Please join your Councilman Bob Weiner at Tails and Trails at Talley Day County Park  
on Sunday May 16 from 11:30 AM to 3 PM. (See 4x6 Postcard attached)  
Bob is a proud Delaware Greenways Advisory Board member.**

Two of Bob's favorite organizations, Delaware Greenways and Delaware SPCA, are co-hosting a very special day for both human and canine trail users. The goal of this inaugural event is to encourage families to get outside and get active while raising money to help abused and homeless animals.

Tails and Trails will be held at Talley-Day Park, from 11:30-3:00 pm, and feature 1 and 2 mile fun walks, police K-9 and search and rescue dog team demonstrations, pet contests, face painting and more. Can you help us to get the word out by placing the attached postcard in your upcoming e-news or communications?  
Participants can register at [www.delspca.org](http://www.delspca.org)

Bob spearheaded the construction of the Talley Day Bark Park and is pleased to support this worthy endeavor.

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**COUNCILMAN BOB WEINER ANNOUNCES “OPEN HOUSES” ON SATURDAY, APRIL 17, 2010  
FOR NEW CASTLE COUNTY’S RESIDENT CURATORSHIP PROGRAM  
IVYSIDE AT BECHTEL PARK AND TALLEY-DAY HOUSE**

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New Castle County will host two “Open Houses” at the first of several historic homes eligible for the Resident Curatorship Program. The Ivyside Farmhouse at Bechtel Park at 1301 Naamans Road and the Talley-Day House located at 1300 Foulk Road are the first of several historic homes eligible for the Resident Curatorship Program. The “Open House” for the Ivyside Farmhouse in Bechtel Park will be held on Saturday, April 17, 2010 from 9:00am to 12:00pm. The “Open House” for the Talley-Day House will also be held on Saturday, April 17, 2010 from 1:00pm to 4:00pm.

The Resident Curatorship Program is a public-private partnership offering private individuals the opportunity to preserve, rehabilitate, or reconstruct deteriorating County-owned historic properties in exchange for a rent free life-time lease on the property. Through this program, the curator pledges to donate to the County goods and services sufficient to restore a particular historic property and to maintain that property in good condition after the restoration. They must reside in the structure, and no rent is charged. In return for fulfilling their pledge, the curator may live there indefinitely, free of mortgage or rental payments and free of property taxes. The curatorship terminates only upon death of the curator.

The Ivyside Farmhouse at Bechtel Park is on the National Register of Historic Places, and is located within the property boundary of Bechtel Park at 1301 Naamans Road. The known history of the house can be traced back to 1804. The large main block of the building was most likely constructed after 1853. While the house is conservative and almost 18<sup>th</sup> century in its’ exterior appearance, the inside features the larger rooms, higher ceilings, decorative plaster treatment and gas lighting typical of mid 19<sup>th</sup> century domestic architecture.

The Talley-Day House, located at 1300 Foulk Road, was originally constructed in 1847 and is of Victorian design. The main house is a two and one-half story, three bay, single pile, vernacular stone masonry and frame dwelling with a dirt floor basement. In addition, there are several out buildings in various condition and deterioration, some of which are salvageable.

Interested preservationists will have an opportunity to view and inspect the exterior and interior of the Ivyside Farmhouse in Bechtel Park as well as the Talley-Day House. The “Open House” for the Ivyside Farmhouse in Bechtel Park will be held on Saturday, April 17, 2010 from 9:00am to 12:00pm. The “Open House: for the Talley-Day House will also be held on Saturday, April 17, 2010 from 1:00pm to 4:00pm.

Prior to attending the “open house” we suggest visiting the New Castle County Resident Curatorship web site at [www.nccde.org/curatorship](http://www.nccde.org/curatorship).

Please direct your continued interest, questions or comments about the Curatorship program to the attention of Bob Merrill at 302-395-5845 or send an e-mail to [rmerrill@nccde.org](mailto:rmerrill@nccde.org).

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Below is a link to view the upcoming events in support of the Delaware SPCA. You can make a difference for homeless dogs and cats by simply walking, dining out, shopping, or clicking to vote. Click here to view: <http://hosted.verticalresponse.com/299789/0f4574de00/1339003364/afab83f5e0/>

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**New Castle County Department of Special Services  
Spring Stormwater Management Newsletter**

**Issue I**

**March 2010**

**In This Issue**

- Fertilizers
- Welcome
- Maintenance Corporations
- Stormwater Amnesty
- Green Technology
- Yard Waste
- Invasive Vegetation
- Did You Know?**



**Welcome!**

Welcome to the first quarterly newsletter from New Castle County, the purpose of which is to keep you updated on stormwater management issues in your community. We hope you find these newsletters beneficial, but if you'd rather not receive them in the future, please follow the unsubscribe link at the bottom of this email.

The County, along with DeIDOT and several other municipalities were issued a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System "NPDES" permit that requires us to implement measures towards reducing erosion, flooding, and the degradation of the water quality in our ponds, rivers, and streams in order to improve the quality of life for our residents. In order to achieve our goals, we have implemented many programs including screening for illicit discharges to the storm sewer system, regulating construction to insure the control of pollutants, minimizing stormwater runoff from new development, inspecting stormwater ponds and best management practices ("BMP's") throughout the County, and monitoring industrial facilities.

You can help us by properly disposing of household hazardous wastes( such as used motor oil, antifreeze and old paint); yard waste (such as grass clipping, leaf litter, and animal droppings), by properly



Applying fertilizer before it rains produces large amounts of polluted runoff. Once introduced to lakes and streams, this runoff leads to fish killing algae blooms. Per acre, residential homes apply more fertilizers than farmers. Get a soil test in advance to see if you even need to fertilize.

### Quick Links

Register Your MC Online

DNREC Yard Waste Info

More About Us

applying pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers, and by insuring your communities stormwater management facility functions as designed by applying proper maintenance. For more information, please see our website [www.nccde.org/ncc-swnpd/index2.asp](http://www.nccde.org/ncc-swnpd/index2.asp) or give us a call at 395-5754.



### Maintenance Corporations

In 1965, the Delaware General Assembly mandated that New Castle County regulate the development and subdivision of land in the unincorporated areas of the County. With the mandate, it became the County's responsibility to protect water resources and provide adequate provisions for public utilities, drainage, parkland, and open space.

To achieve this, New Castle County began issuing regulations regarding land development. Current code provisions require developers to set aside open space and create adequate controls for stormwater management. A maintenance corporation is created and subsequent control of the organization, as well as ownership of the open space and common (which includes stormwater management) facilities, are transferred to the homeowners. Chapter 40, Article 27 of the Unified Development Code addresses the purpose of, and requirements for, Maintenance Organizations, Open Space, and Common Facilities.

With lot ownership, membership into the corporation occurs automatically. In accordance with their Maintenance Declaration, the corporation has the authority to assess each homeowner, or member, his/her share of the cost for maintaining the designated areas. By properly maintaining their facilities, organizations can preserve greenery and wildlife, provide recreation areas for community members, and improve stormwater runoff quality. For more information, on maintenance corporations, please go to the following link <http://www2.nccde.org/Neighborhood/default.aspx>



### STORMWATER MANAGEMENT AMNESTY PROGRAM

Do you live in a community with a maintenance corporation? Has your maintenance corporation submitted your community's 2010 Annual Registration Form and your 2009 Inspection and Maintenance Logs with the New Castle County Stormwater Management Office? Extended deadline to submit all forms is April 15, 2010. Not sure, call Janice Catherman at (302) 395-5754 or e-mail her at [Jcatherman@nccde.org](mailto:Jcatherman@nccde.org).

What is the Stormwater Management (SWM) Amnesty Program? In 2005, County Executive Chris Coons initiated an assistance program

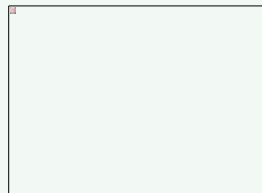
for all maintenance corporations in New Castle County who have stormwater management facilities such as wet or dry ponds, bio swales, infiltration basins and bioretention areas, constructed wetlands and filter strips. Until 2005, there was no formal inspection process of the stormwater management facilities in residential communities. Annually, New Castle County performs over 1,400 SWM facility inspections throughout New Castle County. The inspection reports list the minor maintenance deficiencies that need to be corrected in the SWM facility and are mailed to respective maintenance corporations. Maintenance corporations are required by New Castle County Code to maintain their open space and SWM facilities.

By joining the SWM Amnesty Program, communities agree that they will perform routine maintenance in and around their SWM facilities and conduct an inspection after every major rain storm over 2". In return, New Castle County will do major repairs to the SWM facilities if and when needed, upon available funding. What is routine maintenance and major repairs? Routine maintenance of the SWM facilities consists of grassing cutting, removing of trash and debris, minor sediment removal, repairing minor erosion and animal burrows, and unblocking a clogged outlet structure. Major repairs consist of re-engineering and/or re-designing the facility, major sediment removal, major erosion, and major repairs to the outlet structures.

Since 2005, New Castle County has spent \$ 7.6M on repairs to SWM facilities in over 70 communities. Funding has come from the State and County sources.

Communities must register annually their Board of Directors contact information and submit one Inspection and Maintenance Log for each stormwater management facility in their community. These forms are due back to the County's Stormwater Management Office by January 31<sup>st</sup> of every year. An extension has been granted this year until April 15<sup>th</sup>. If all the required forms have not been received by the County, communities will be removed from the Program.

You may follow the link on this email or go to the County's SWM website at [www.nccde.org/specialservices/stormwater](http://www.nccde.org/specialservices/stormwater) to obtain the Amnesty forms and for links to other SWM informational sites.



### **Green Technology (BMPs)**

Stormwater management is the science of preventing the adverse impacts of stormwater runoff. Initially, the focus was on managing the rate of runoff from a development to prevent flooding and erosion. Today, Scientists and Engineers

around the country are designing and promoting the new stormwater management facilities which are called "Green Technologies" or Best Management Practices (BMPs). They are known for addressing water quality through more natural means. The examples of such facilities are Bioretention, Bioswale, Infiltration basins, Porous Pavement, Filter Strip and Constructed Wetland. Typically those facilities intercept runoff from rooftops, parking lots, roads and other impervious

surfaces. In this method, stormwater is directed into vegetative areas because vegetation is known to absorb a high percentage of pollutants like Nitrogen and Phosphate from water. These facilities treat the runoff before it enters into the streams or soaks into the ground. Although BMPs sometimes can not be used to manage water quantity (amount of water) alone, they are very effective at improving water quality. As compared to the traditional method of stormwater management facilities like a wet or dry pond, these newer devices, mimic nature, require much less maintenance, and enhance local property values. Most of the time they are incorporated into the landscaping areas around urban communities or around commercial parking areas, so most people don't even recognize when they see them. Like every other structure, maintenance is critical for these facilities to operate according to their original design. Common maintenance needs for Green Technology BMPs may include but not be limited to, maintenance of vegetation, proper grass height for bioswales, mulch replacement, and trash and debris removal. There is likely a specific maintenance plan for your facility. If you are having trouble locating it, please contact our office for assistance.



### **Yard Waste Disposal**

Now that spring is here it's time to start thinking about lawn care. Creating flower beds, mulching, and mowing the grass. But what a lot of people don't think about is where they are disposing their yard waste or how harmful it can be if done improperly.

A common place to find yard waste being improperly disposed is along pond and stream embankments or slopes. You may think this is beneficial because the piles offer erosion protection or beneficial materials to the environment by decomposing, but they do not. In fact it's the opposite. Piles of grass clippings will smother any vegetation underneath leaving the soil exposed and vulnerable to moving water. Often times the piles can take years to decompose because they are not maintained properly. Furthermore, any pesticides or fertilizers that were applied to the lawn are now accumulating and adversely affecting the surrounding environment.

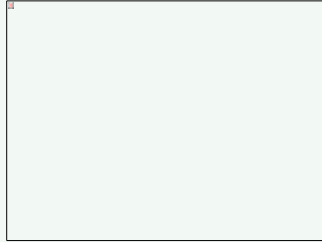
Also many residents don't realize that dumping any material along a waterway or stream is illegal unless authorized to do so by the State of Delaware's Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC). It is also prohibited to dispose materials onto County property without permission from the Department of Special Services.

The best way to dispose of your unwanted yard waste is to compost it. This can be done by taking it to one of the States yard waste drop off sites or creating and maintaining a proper compost pile on your property. Also, your waste disposal company is required to offer a yard waste pick up.

The State of Delaware has a website with an abundance of information

to help you with all your yard waste needs.

<http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/yardwaste/Pages/Default.aspx>



### **Phragmites**

The need to "treat and eliminate the invasive phragmites from in and around the pond" is continually an underachieved goal on the annual Stormwater Inspection Report.

Phragmites (*Phragmites Australis*), also known as the common reed, is an aggressive invasive perennial plant that has grown in North America for over 3,000 years. However, in the past century it has dominated most of the mid-Atlantic area, living and thriving in Stormwater facilities in and around New Castle County, Delaware. Phragmites spread rapidly by releasing rhizomes that create a thick impenetrable mat across the floor of the ponds destroying competing healthy vegetation. They can also grow to a height of 15 feet, which creates a canopy blocking life-sustaining light from the foliage below. They contribute to sediment accumulation in the ponds, in particular around the structures of the Stormwater facility, which in turn negatively affects the overall function of these ponds. If the invasive phragmites are not treated and controlled they often completely fill in and take over entire ponds and Stormwater facilities. Once the phragmites have established themselves they are very difficult to control. The best approach to treat and eliminate the phragmites is to combine an integrated pest management plan and mechanical removal. Chemical treatments should be done in the summer months, from July through August, followed by cutting and removal of the dead phragmites. Plans involving three years of consecutive treatment have proven to be successful in controlling the invasive phragmites. Routine maintenance with spot chemical treatment and mechanical removal will be required to control future growth. Delaware does require that a certified applicator be used when using herbicides. New Castle County can supply a list of Certified Applicators by contacting our office. Please contact us at 395-5754 for more information.

### **DSWA Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event**

**Event Date: Saturday, April 03, 2010**

**Time: 8:00 AM-4:00 PM**

**Location: Pine Tree Corners Transfer Station  
276 Pine Tree Road  
Townsend, DE  
New Castle County**

**Come See Us at the Delaware Green Fest!**

**Event Date: Saturday, April 18, 2010**

**Time: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM**

**Location: Legislative Mall**

**Dover, DE**

**<http://www.degreenfest.org/>**

**New Castle County Stormwater Management Program**

**187 A Old Churchmans Road, New Castle, DE 19720**

**(302)-395-5754**

**<http://www.nccde.org/ncc-swnpdes/index2.asp>**

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**Click here to be linked to the County Courier:**

**<http://www.nccde.org/countycouncil/home/fileuploads/images/publication11b.pdf>**

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**From the magazine "Municipal Sewer & water April 2010 issue "Tightening Up".  
"New Castle County targets 100-year life for rehabilitated sewers."**

**"Clear water from illegally plumbed sump pumps, underdrains, and other sources posed a major problem for Dave Hofer, P.E., assistant county engineer for the Engineering Division of the New Castle (Del.) County Special Services Department."**

**Dear concerned civic leaders,**



Please read this well written article which speaks highly of our Special Services Department and the leadership of David Hofer on the Brandywine Hundred Sewer Project. We are fortunate to have David Hofer on our county workforce spearheading this project.

The profile on the Brandywine Hundred sewer upgrade is online at <http://www.mswmag.com/editorial/view/2725/Tightening-Up>.

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**An Open Letter to Our Civic Association Officers And Community Leaders from Bob Weiner**

Dear civic association officer and community leader,

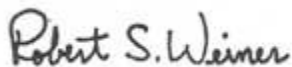
Thank you for allowing me to serve as your County Councilman for the past 13 years.

I would be pleased to speak to your civic association on matters of concern to your residents. I typically speak for about 10 to 15 minutes and then answer questions as time allows. Currently timely topics include: New Castle County's fiscal condition, sewer project update, county parks, greenways, open space preservation initiatives, county libraries, proposed rezonings and land use development projects, community property code violations, incidents of crime in your community, what you can do to prevent criminal activity, how you can initiate a community block watch to combat crime, Councilman Weiner's "Citizens Anti-graffiti Brigade and other public service projects. Community involvement is the key to maintaining and improving our quality of life.

Please encourage residents to visit our Council web site to be informed about community activities and to communicate with me. Please let your residents know that they may always contact my aide, Lou Hinkle at any time for assistance. I also maintain a Citizens Email List Serve which I use to email timely information of relevance to our community. Let me know if you or others would like to be added to the data base.

Contact my New Castle County Council office at 395-8342 if you have any questions or would like to invite me to speak to your civic association or community. Visit our New Castle County Council web site at [www.nccde.org](http://www.nccde.org) for additional information.

Sincerely,



Bob Weiner, your County Councilman  
"Making County Government Work for Us"  
Council District 2, New Castle County, DE  
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