



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

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

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

**County Police Ink**

This informational periodical provides our citizens with facts and information on the activity of our New Castle County Police Department and how they are working hard to keep us safe!

**What’s Inside This Months Ink Issue:**

- M.E.T. Drug Busts
- Corporal Shriener receives award
- C.N.T. members negotiate surrender
  - Retirements
  - Click Here -

<http://www.nccde.org/countycouncil/home/fileuploads/images/may%202010%20newsletter%20and%20monthly%20report.pdf>

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

• \*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Brandywine Town Center Opens Playground Proposed by Councilman Bob Weiner 3 years ago.**

**Grand Opening Ribbon Cutting June 23, 2010**

Brandywine Town Center, Councilman Bob Weiner, parents, children, and shop owners cut the ribbon on a new playground which Bob had proposed 3 years ago as part of a negotiated settlement addressing many outstanding community concerns dating back to the mid 1980's.

The addition of the playground next to the pond on the south side of Brandywine Town Center along Naamans Road will be linked into the surrounding walking paths next year.

In a statement released by Councilman Weiner, he stated: *The addition of this tot lot will help draw children, parents and grandparents to the center’s south side to help support the commercial viability of these shops and restaurants. More pedestrians using the playground*

*and paths increases the likelihood that they will frequent the shops and restaurants along center's south side, which have been economically challenged over the years by the center's attractive but flawed design from a business perspective. Most of the parking is not conveniently close to the shops on the south side. Customers shy away from using the south side's underground parking.*

**As a consequence of Councilman Weiner's initiative, two undeveloped restaurant pads will no longer be developed and have legally reverted to open space.**





\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

**A Message from State Rep. Tom Kovach - Important Yard Waste Site Update**  
**Cauffiel closing June 27, 2010 & Interim Site Accepting Residential Waste**  
**6th District Yard Waste Site Update:**



**This report is from State Rep Tom Kovach who has worked tirelessly to identify a new yard waste site.**

**In light of the Cauffiel “Demonstration” Yard Waste Site’s permanent closure on June 27, 2010 and the eventual relocation of a new site to Hay Road by DNREC, Holland Mulch will be accepting residential yard waste at its site at 135 Hay Road during the summer months.**

**John Duffy, owner of Holland Mulch, has committed to accept RESIDENTIAL yard waste at his commercial site at no charge. (Free mulch will not be available.) Please keep in mind that the current operation of the Holland Mulch site is designed for commercial use, although the volume of commercial vehicles is reduced during the summer months. If you choose to utilize this site, please exercise appropriate care.**

**DNREC is in the process of finalizing the details on the future residential yard waste site, including performing background environmental testing and finalizing contract terms with the current landowner (DuPont) which has volunteered its property for such use.**

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Councilman Weiner Spearheads \$5M grant application to Fund Planning & Engineering Design to Connect Commuter Train Lines from DE to Aberdeen MD & D.C.**

**“Chesapeake Science & Security Corridor:  
A Multi-State Approach Connecting Transit-Oriented Communities to the Mid-Atlantic’s Work  
Center”**

Councilman Bob Weiner learned of the HUD Sustainable Communities Grant when attending the National Association of Counties Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. March 5-8. See [www.naco.org](http://www.naco.org). NACo represents most of the 3000 + counties in our country. He relayed the information to New Castle County and WILMAPCO, our regional Metropolitan Planning Organization, in the attached post-conference March 13, 2010 report. Although the stimulus grant issuance was public knowledge, the briefing that he received at the NACo Conference provided invaluable information about how we collectively could, on a regional basis, maximize our chances to successfully compete for this grant by leveraging our existing infrastructure of transit-oriented communities, combined with the Aberdeen BRAC initiative.

The attached HUD Sustainable Communities Preliminary Grant Application has been filed. A report of the grant status will be made at the New Castle County Council Economic Development Subcommittee in our County Council 8<sup>th</sup> floor conference room on Tuesday June 22 at 3 PM. Councilman Weiner co-chairs the Council subcommittee with Councilwoman Lisa Diller. The NOFA has not been released yet and may need to be modified.

The proposed grant would fund planning and engineering design for Transit Oriented Developments at the following train stations: Newark, Elkton, Perryville, Aberdeen and Edgewood in support of the relocation of US Army units in conjunction with the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) at the Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG) site in Aberdeen and Edgewood, MD.

The Chesapeake Science and Security Corridor (CSSC) Consortium, in conjunction with New Castle County, DE, Harford County and Cecil County, MD; the city of Newark, DE; Town of Elkton, Town of Perryville, City of Aberdeen, and community of Edgewood, MD, and WILMAPCO (Wilmington Area Regional Planning Organization, our area metropolitan planning organization) will collectively be submitting the \$5M HUD Sustainable Communities grant application under Category 2: *Detailed Execution Plans and Programs* and Category 3: *Implementation Incentives*.

Because of Councilman Weiner’s many years of active involvement in NACo, he is able to assist New Castle County, WILMAPCO and our regional Chesapeake Science & Security Corridor in advancing this grant.

For additional information, click here:  
NACo Report  
<http://www.nccde.org/countycouncil/home/fileuploads/images/report%20to%20council%202010%20draft.pdf>

Chesapeake Science & Security Corridor  
[http://www.nccde.org/countycouncil/home/fileuploads/images/hud%20sustainable%20communities%20one-pager%20\(2\).pdf](http://www.nccde.org/countycouncil/home/fileuploads/images/hud%20sustainable%20communities%20one-pager%20(2).pdf)

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Personal Safety Presentation**

Please see below regarding several personal safety seminars being hosted by our agency. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thank you!

S/Cpl. Amy M. Kevis  
Special Operations Division  
Community Services Unit  
New Castle County Police  
(302)3958059  
[AKEvis@nccde.org](mailto:AKEvis@nccde.org)

New Castle County Police is concerned for your safety with recent reportings of stranger abductions and sexual assaults in our area. Please attend one of these free educational sessions on personal safety. There will be information on prevention techniques and strategies to minimize or hopefully eliminate opportunities for victimization. Please R.S.V.P. for this seminar as seating is limited.

**What:** Personal Safety Presentation

**When:** Two Sessions: Friday, June 25, 2010 at 6:30 – 8 p.m.  
Thursday, July 15, 2010 at 6:30 – 8 p.m.

**Where:** New Castle County Public Safety Building – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Community Room  
3601 North DuPont Highway, New Castle, 19720

**R.S.V.P.** Senior Sergeant Claudine Malone at (302) 395-8050 or via email at [cmalone@nccde.org](mailto:cmalone@nccde.org) as seating is limited

Spread the word!



## PERSONAL SAFETY TIPS



### VEHICLE SAFETY

- Scan the parking area before parking / walking to your car

- Be aware of who and what is around you at all times
- Park next to a light post if there is a chance that it will be dark when you return to your car
- If there is someone suspicious, don't go in your car
- When approaching your car have your keys in your hands so there is no fumbling
- Look inside your car before you enter it and make sure there is nobody waiting for you
- Keep your doors locked when driving
- Ask for an escort to your car

## **APPEARANCE**

- Walk with a purpose, appear confident, keep your head up, and continually look around
  - Maintain ample distance between you and others
- An attack cannot occur unless the criminal is close to you*
- Do not carry an excessive amount, be able to defend yourself
  - Do not obstruct your vision
  - Carry and keep handy a noise device (whistle, horn etc)
  - If you feel threatened, scream, yell, get someone's attention

## **OUTSIDE YOUR HOME**

- When possible, travel in groups
- Stay in well lit areas at night, in populated area during the day
- Walk on the side of the street facing traffic
- Have your keys ready
- Always have your cell phone charged and handy

## **BE PREPARED-HAVE A PLAN**

- Take any opportunity to receive training to better prepare yourself.
- Rehearse mentally, "What would I do if this person grabs me?" You will increase your instinctive reactions and become more confident.

**Be vigilant, be prepared and report all suspicious activity immediately to 9-1-1.**



New Castle CountyPolice  
 Community Services Unit(302)395-8050  
[www.nccpd.com](http://www.nccpd.com)

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*



**Delaware Humane Association  
20th Annual Walk for the Animals  
Sunday, October 3, 2010  
Banning Park  
Maryland Avenue, Wilmington, DE**

**Come share the peace, love and yappiness at Woofstock!**

With this letter, I am asking you as a DHA supporter to help us find business sponsors for our largest fundraiser of the year, Woofstock, the 20th Annual Walk for the Animals. Please forward this email to business owners at establishments you frequent or friends who may own a business.

Woofstock is a great opportunity for a business to show its support for our mission and gain considerable exposure. The business logo or name (depending on the level of sponsorship chosen) will appear on the following:

- 500-700 walkers wearing t-shirts
- 20,000 brochures distributed throughout New Castle County and surrounding areas
- 9,000 brochures sent to the DHA mailing list
- Company logo and link listed on the DHA website
- Press releases

Last year, we raised more than \$80,000. We hope that in spite of the economy, we can meet or exceed our goal of \$95,000.

Delaware Humane Association's **vision** is to secure a safe environment for all companion animals. Our **mission** is to act as a voice for companion animals and to enhance their welfare by providing temporary shelter, spay/neuter services, humane education programs, and adoption/placement resources. In order to continue carrying out our mission, DHA needs the support of local businesses for Woofstock.

**To be included in the promotional brochure, businesses need to sign up by Friday, June 25; to be included on the Walk t-shirt and sweatshirt, businesses need to sign up by Monday, August 2.**

Visit [www.dehumane.org/eventsponsorship](http://www.dehumane.org/eventsponsorship) to view details about sponsorship levels, sign up as a sponsor online, or download a mail-in sponsorship sign up form.

Thank you!

Phyllis S. Barnes  
Director of Development  
[psbarnes@dehumane.org](mailto:psbarnes@dehumane.org)  
(302) 571-8171, ext. 300



[Unsubscribe](#) | [Forward to a Friend](#) | [Visit our web site](#)

Delaware Humane Association  
701 A Street  
Wilmington, DE 19801  
© 2009 All rights reserved.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

## **Delaware environment: Sinkholes in suburbia**

**Watch your step: Debris-filled pits are opening up in Delaware yards**

By CHAD LIVENGOOD • The News Journal • June 5, 2010

Dan Callahan no longer mows his lawn without his wife or children in the house -- or at least knowing that a neighbor is home.

That's because Callahan five years ago fell into a cavernous sinkhole in his backyard while cutting the grass. The push mower didn't go into the hole, but Callahan's six-foot frame did, leaving him up to his armpits in dirt. Not knowing whether his feet had hit bottom, Callahan said he waited a few minutes before attempting to crawl out of the hole. His wife and children weren't home.

"I'm pretty conscious of that nowadays," Callahan said.

State officials have determined the hole in Callahan's backyard was caused by a debris pit filled with decaying tree trunks, and possibly construction materials, by the developer who built the Mendenhall Village neighborhood near Hockessin three decades ago.

It's an all too common problem in neighborhoods constructed during the 1960s, '70s and '80s across Delaware, particularly in New Castle County, officials say.

Developers, who were barred from burning such materials because of pollution concerns, simply dug pits as deep as 26 feet and backfilled them with construction debris and dirt, said Rich Kelly, who runs the debris pit remediation program for the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control. As the organic materials decay underground, dangerous methane gas can form and eventually the pits create sinkholes, Kelly said.

Callahan and three of his neighbors are among 209 homeowners in the state on a waiting list to have their debris pits removed.

Excavating a yard and removing the debris can cost \$17,000 to \$35,000 per house, Kelly said.

But the state debris pit program is on hold after its more than \$1 million annual funding got cut for the current fiscal year, which ends June 30. Funding for next year also remains in doubt, as Gov. Jack Markell did not make it part of his budget request, said Mike Brown, an environmental program administrator in DNREC's Division of Soil and Water Conservation. The General Assembly could choose to restore funding for the program through its Bond Bill, Brown said.

In fiscal 2009, DNREC eliminated 63 debris pits across the state, at a cost of \$1 million, Kelly said.

Brown said the program's two employees remain on staff with unspent funds from previous years, but they're limited financially to inspecting and certifying new debris pits, not fixing them.

With no additional funding, Brown said, "we could probably hang on for one more year."

Debris pits were outlawed in 1988 after the federal Environmental Protection Agency spent \$1.4 million to extract 16,000 tons of debris from pits lined behind houses on Jonathan Drive in the Raintree Village neighborhood near Christiana. Those pits were discovered after a plumber set off an explosion in a basement by throwing a lit match into a sump pump, where methane gas was leaking in from the underground debris pit, according to News Journal archives.

In some cases, homeowners and the state have been able to force developers to remove the debris they buried. But in the majority of cases, the developer has moved on or changed names, so the state has taken on responsibility of assisting homeowners.

A 1988 study determined there were at least 1,700 debris pits scattered across Delaware. But that figure is based on known pits or pits that have been discovered because of sink holes, which take several years to develop, depending on the soil type and conditions, Kelly said.

"I believe there's probably 15,000 debris pits in New Castle County alone," Kelly said.

The state has taken on the financial responsibility because of its own culpability in allowing developers to bury debris, instead of paying to have it hauled to a landfill.

"The state knew the developers weren't complying with the law and were kind of turning a blind eye," said Joe Jezyk, who lives next door to Callahan.

Jezyk was the first of his neighbors to discover a slowly rotting debris pit in his backyard in 2003. He bought his house new 30 years ago. But he didn't know he had a debris pit in his yard until the front end of a contractor's truck dropped nearly four feet into a sink hole in his backyard when he was having retaining walls installed. Jezyk had that hole filled seven years ago and got on DNREC's debris pit remediation list in 2004, where he's been waiting for assistance since. Just last week, a new sinkhole -- measuring 10 feet wide and 8 feet deep -- formed in Jezyk's backyard, requiring six tons of dirt to fill in the safety hazard.

Jezyk said the pits would make his home difficult to sell. "No one would buy a home knowing there's a debris pit in the backyard," he said. "I spent \$1,000 this week maintaining those holes so people don't get hurt."

DNREC has estimated it could cost more than \$100,000 to remove debris pits at the homes of Jezyk, Callahan and two neighbors.

Callahan filled in his hole with dirt, built a fence around it and now uses it as a compost pile. But he knows that's only a short-term solution to a sinking lawn.

"I'm waiting for the next shoe to drop," Callahan said.

#### **DO YOU HAVE A DEBRIS PIT ON YOUR PROPERTY?**

Look for these signs:

- **Subsidence:** an area of the yard has settled and is lower in elevation than the surrounding area. Cracks in the soil may be visible.
- **Distressed vegetation:** plants and grass will not grow or grow poorly in a specific area because of gases produced by decomposing material.
- **Sinkholes:** often formed when rainwater pulls soil into the voids between buried material. They can appear small at the surface but may be cavernous underground.
- For more information, contact the Debris Pit Remediation Program at 834-5555 or go to **Delaware Debris Pit Program** to fill out a complaint form.

**Contact Chad Livengood at 324-2832 or [clivengood@delawareonline.com](mailto:clivengood@delawareonline.com).**



Purchase this Photo

Dan Callahan was mowing his Hockessin-area lawn when he fell into a sinkhole up to his armpits. (The News Journal/SUCHAT PEDERSON)



Purchase this Photo

Joe Jezyk's garden wall in his backyard was once level, but now is sinking in the ground at his Mendenhall Village home near Hockessin. He first had a sinkhole filled seven years ago and is still waiting to be repaid. (The News Journal/SUCHAT PEDERSON)



Jezyk's most recent sinkhole -- which he discovered last week -- measured 8 feet deep and 10 feet wide. It took six tons of dirt to fill in. Pieces of the rotting wood debris can still be seen buried in the pit. (Courtesy of Joe Jezyk)

## ABOUT DEBRIS PITS

During New Castle County's housing boom, builders were allowed to bury construction waste on site in large holes called debris pits. The practice was banned in 1988, when problems with methane gas and sinkholes were discovered.

# FOG Horn

New Castle County Department of Special Services  
Fats, Oil & Grease Newsletter

Summer 2010

For more  
information,  
visit us online at:

[New Castle  
County FOG](#)

## Reduce, reuse, recycle and properly dispose of FOG

You probably find yourself making efforts to be "green" by doing simple things like reducing energy consumption and recycling items in your home. We'd like to tell you about another easy and important way you can have a positive impact on your community and the environment.

Fats, oil and grease, commonly referred to as FOG, causes sewer blockages, leading to spills and overflows that are hazardous to your health, can result in damage to your home, pollute your local waterways and groundwater, and harm fish and wildlife habitats.

***The good news is community members like you have the power to easily prevent damage from FOG, contributing to a better quality of life here in Delaware.***

A byproduct of cooking, FOG includes animal fats, vegetable fats, and oils. If you cook meats like bacon or use butter, margarine, or shortening, you've encountered FOG. Restaurants deal with much larger volumes of FOG than the typical homeowner or renter, but everyone needs to do their part. Even small amounts of FOG can lead to major problems.

Wastewater flows through pipes, is pumped at pump stations, and is cleaned by the wastewater plant. FOG creates blockages within the sewer system that can lead to system failure as FOG builds up. Like cholesterol sticking to artery walls, FOG clings to the walls of the sewer system, one layer at a time, narrowing the path. This can lead to disease-causing raw sewage overflowing into homes, yards, streets, and parks. Cleanup is expensive-not to mention very unpleasant.



## We were at Green Fest! Were you?

On Sunday, April 18, a crowd of eco-friendly, green-minded Delawareans gathered at the Legislative mall in Dover to share innovative ideas and raise community awareness about green and sustainable living.

Green Fest, sponsored by the Home Builders Association of Delaware, provided a fun-filled public forum for community members to discover what being green is all about.



New Castle County (NCC) was on hand educating the public about the impact of stormwater and FOG management on the local community and the environment as a whole. NCC's display focused on the theme: ***Only Rain Down the Storm Drain.***

If you were there, we hope you visited booth to grab a FOG disposal can lid and a kitchen note pad featuring FOG disposal tips.

## FOG door hangers may be coming to a neighborhood near you!



NCC is preparing to launch a door hanger campaign in areas of the county where sewer blockages from grease are particularly problematic. Keep an eye out for a door hanger on your front door.

If you receive one, please take special care to follow the tips for handling FOG in your home. If everyone makes just a small amount of effort, we can eliminate sewer blockages from grease, which have a negative

impact on your health, your property, your neighborhood, and the environment.



***New Castle County Department of Special Services FOG Program***

**302-395-5700**