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Townsend News

September 2014



From the Mayor's Desk

Friends, I would like to take time to share some of the things going on in and around Townsend. The biggest news of all is, our beloved Townsend Elementary is set to re-open this school year after a 2 year hiatus; if you haven't had an opportunity to see the renovations please plan to visit. The long awaited Downtown Streetscape project is entering the final stages of construction. Once the project is complete it will give a new look and feel to the western portion of Main Street with new benches, street lighting and ADA approved sidewalks. We will continue to seek funding to complete the remaining sections of Main Street as funding permits. We are also set to welcome a new retailer to the corner of Main and Summit Bridge Road. As you read the remaining articles contained in the newsletter; ask yourself "how can I get involved". We're always looking for volunteers for our Town Council committees and the upcoming Townsend Fair and Parade. Please plan to attend an upcoming Town Council Meeting held the first Wednesday of every month at the Townsend Fire Hall.

Mayor Jermaine Hatton

Town Council

Mayor Jermaine Hatton

jhatton@townsend.delaware.gov

Councilman John Ness

jness@townsend.delaware.gov

Councilwoman Lorraine Gorman

lgorman@townsend.delaware.gov

Councilman Rudy Sutton

rsutton@townsend.delaware.gov

Councilwoman Cindy Cook

ccook@townsend.delaware.gov

Town Staff

Town Manager Dawson Green

dgreen@townsend.delaware.gov

Finance Officer Azure DeShields

adeshields@townsend.delaware.gov

Town Clerk Cathy Beaver

cbeaver@townsend.delaware.gov

Maintenance – George Hargrove

Town Council Meetings

First Wednesday every month

7:30 pm @

Townsend Fire Hall

Office Hours

Monday through Friday

8:00 am – 4:00 pm



Townsend Tidbits – Did You Know?

- The 9th annual parade and fair is September 27, 2014, parade @ 10:00 am, fair – 11:00 – 3:00 pm
- The annual fair is always the fourth Saturday in September
- Trash and Recycling is mandatory and picked up on Monday's – billed monthly
- Council meetings are the first Wednesday each month @ 7:30 pm at the Townsend Fire Company
- Mid-Month Council meetings are held at 7:00 pm at Town Hall two weeks prior to Council meetings – open to the public
- The Town Hall offers free notary service, copies for .10 cents per page and faxes are \$1.00
- Town T-shirts are for sale for \$14.00 at Town Hall
- Town Hall hours are 8:00 am – 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday
- Town elections are the first Saturday in May at Town Hall
- Council is always looking for volunteers for the Town committees and events
- Townsend Elementary School has re-opened this season
- School is back in session, please watch for children walking and stopped school buses
- The Town rents the large pavilion at the park for parties; call Town Hall for your reservation. Proceeds go into park upgrades.
- Permits are required for any work on your property
- All contractors must be licensed in the Town of Townsend

Town Events held since March 2014



Nature Walk

On March 20, 2014, as part of National Wildlife Week, the Townsend Wildlife Committee joined with guide Jennifer Holmes of the Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve, who gave 12 residents and friends of Townsend a guided tour of the Blackbird Creek Reserve. Jennifer is very knowledgeable about the environment, everyone learned something new and all had a good time. Photos are available on the Town's facebook page.



The Easter Egg hunt was held on April 13th and turned out to be a phenomenal event! We're not sure if it was the hot dogs and cupcakes that were served, or the addition of the Easter Bonnet/Crazy Hat Contests – or if it was just because it was a beautiful day to be out in the park – but we had a record-breaking crowd, and children (as well as adults) had a great time, as proven by the pictures that are available on the Town's Facebook page.



Community Yard Sale in the Park

We had our first Community Yard Sale in the Park on May 10th. 40 Residents had registered in advance and although unpredictable weather conditions that morning deterred some from venturing out, 17 families did arrive at the park to sell their wares and make new friends. Most said they enjoyed themselves and would not hesitate to do it again.....so should we try it again in the spring??



Public Safety Update – Councilman John Ness

There has been renewed interest from residents regarding the Townsend Town Watch. There are several residents able and willing to maintain a watch in their neighborhoods. They report suspicious activity to the DE State Police. If residents see suspicious activity/behavior, please contact authorities @ 302-378-5218 or call 911.

If you are interested in joining the Townsend Town Watch, please send contact information to Councilman John Ness at jness@townsend.delaware.gov or Town Clerk Cathy Beaver at cbeaver@townsend.delaware.gov – or stop by the Town Hall. Once we have enough volunteers we will schedule informal patrols so that Town Watch members can report suspicious/illegal activity to the authorities.

A contact list of residents on the Town Watch is maintained. It is used along with the Town website and Facebook page to ensure flow of information/comments/questions to and from residents.

The Town of Townsend will be scheduling discussions by law enforcement at future Town Council meetings. These will include safety tips to keep your family, home and valuables safe. Other topics of interest related to public safety will also be discussed. Links to additional information will be provided on the Townsend website at www.townsend.delaware.gov.

Town Council has been working with the Town Attorney, Town Engineer and Town Inspector to start cleaning up derelict properties deemed unsafe within the Town limits. To date, three such properties are being cleaned up and brought within compliance of the Town codes. Council will continue working on this issue to ensure the incorporated limits of the Town of Townsend are safe for everyone.

Residents – there have been many incidents of vandalism in the park the last several months. Please be observant and if you see anything suspicious happening, call the police.

Volunteers are needed for the upcoming Town Fair and Parade on Saturday, 9/27/14. This includes an important role of traffic control on Main Street during the parade. Volunteers will be stationed at intersections along the route along with traffic cones to ensure the safety of parade participants. If you can help, please contact me, Councilwoman Lorraine Gorman @ lgorman@townsend.delaware.gov or Cathy Beaver.

Councilwoman Cindy Cook on Community Relations

In a continued effort to increase community awareness and involvement in the Townsend area, Town Council would like to extend an invitation to *every Town Resident* to take an active role within the community by attending our bi-monthly Council meetings. These meetings are held the first and third (generally) Wednesday of each month. The time and location of each meeting is posted on the Town website – www.townsend.delaware.gov – and Facebook page. Any questions concerning meetings can be addressed by contacting Town Hall Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 am – 4:00 pm @ 302-378-8082.

The Community Relations Committee is currently working towards enhancing our Town website and increasing our presence on the Town's Facebook page to more effectively engage and equip the residents of Townsend with the necessary information related to our community. The committee is currently looking for residents of Townsend to be a part of the Townsend Community Partnership Team. Anyone who may be interested in being a part of this team and making a difference in our local community, please contact Councilwoman Cindy Cook @ ccook@townsend.delaware.gov.



NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION

Townsend would like to congratulate the City of Newark for becoming the State of Delaware's SECOND Community Wildlife Habitat to be certified.

Also to be congratulated are the following residents within the Townsend zip code who have recently had their yards certified as Wildlife habitats: Robert Clausen, Terry & Cathy Beaver and Richard and Rubia McBride.

Information on how to have your yard certified as a wildlife habitat is always available at Town Hall. If you would be interested in attending seminars on native vegetation, tree planting or wildlife preservation in the spring – please contact Councilwoman Lorraine Gorman @ lgorman@townsend.delaware.gov.

Greetings from Councilman Rudy Sutton and the Public Works Committee

Council is excited about the great things happening in the Town of Townsend. With the first phase of the streetscape coming to an end, Dollar General wrapping up and Townsend Elementary School back open, the dust is finally starting to clear! Thanks to all the residents for being helpful and patient during the construction.

The Town would like to give a special thanks to the residents who reside on Main Street for your patience and feedback throughout the projects. You guys were on the front line of this!

Please be sure to take a stroll down Main Street to see the wonderful transformation. See you at the Fair!

Townsend Annual Fair

The 9th Annual Town Fair will be held on

Saturday

September 27, 2014

The fair begins with a parade down Main Street from the Fire Company to the Municipal Park on Edgar Road. We expect this year's Parade to be even bigger than last year's so arrive early to make sure you don't miss it!!



Keep checking the website for more info and scheduled events

After the parade, check out the non-stop activities at the park from 11 to 3

As always, **D. J. Jammin' Jeff** will be volunteering his time to keep us on track with announcements & music throughout the day.

The **Delaware State Police** will be on hand to display their helicopter & Mounted Patrol Unit. They will also provide free fingerprinting & a K-9 demonstration!

There will be bounce houses, face painting, tattoos, an 80' obstacle course, carnival games, & a train ride for the little ones. Be prepared to test your skills & talents by entering the free-throw, hula hoop, jump rope & dance contests. **PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED!**

The **Pet Costume & Trick Contests** sponsored by **CONCORD PETS** at last year's fair were a **HUGE SUCCESS!!** They have agreed to come back this year - so get your creative minds working to come up with some outrageous costumes for your pets - and start practicing those tricks! This contest does require **PRE-REGISTRATION**. Entry forms are available at Town Hall and Concord Pets (Middletown).

...and of course, you can't have a fair without **VENDORS**. Vendor registrations are coming in daily. Our goal is to top last year's registration, so if you have friends or know of anyone who might be interested in setting up a vendor booth (only \$25), registrations deadline is **September 12th**.

Townsend Annual Fair (continued)

Sponsorships are still coming in, but we would like to thank the following who have already made a donation:

PLATINUM: Smith's Liquors, Mountaire Farms of Delaware, Handler Construction, Remington, Vernick & Beach Engineers, Waste Industries

GOLD: Wilcox Landscaping, Diamond State Motor Brokers, Walmart, Jamie's Auto Repair South, JS Construction

SILVER: Walgreens, Schmittinger & Rodriquez, Dairy Queen of Middletown

In addition, a special "Thank you" to Smith's Liquors, for sponsoring the parade trophies and to Remington, Vernon & Beach for donating "Flyers" Tickets to be raffled off at the fair.

Volunteers - If you can spare an hour, we are in need of parking lot attendants at the fair. Contact Lorraine Gorman @ lgorman@townsend.delaware.gov if you would be willing to help. Thank you.

We hope to see all our residents at the parade and fair – it is geared for Family Fun with something for everyone. Bring your family and friends!



Need a place to have a party?

Are you planning your child's next birthday party or a family re-union? Why not consider renting the Townsend Park pavilion for a minimal fee. Your guests can also take advantage of the park's many amenities; i.e.: skate park, basketball court, swings, playgrounds, baseball field, and walking trails with exercise kiosks. Call the Town Hall Monday through Friday, 8:00 – 4:00 at 302-378-8082 with any questions and to make your reservations.

Hope to hear from you soon

Parks and Recreation Committee – Councilwoman Lorraine Gorman

We have been busy with the park and recreation committee. The Townsend Municipal Park was built for the residents of Townsend so they would have somewhere to go locally. Our children needed a safe place to play and enjoy the outdoors without being shuttled to Middletown or Smyrna, or further. After several years of planning by Council and Jr. Council, comprised of school children in grades 3 – 6, the park was built and has been open to the public for five (5) years now. It has been a true “labor of love”, yet a source of great frustration!

Vandalism

The vandalism in the park has really escalated in the last few months and has required the purchase of additional equipment for repairs to structures that has cost the Town quite a bit of money. Friends and neighbors – this park was built for you and your children. The park is open dawn to dusk. If you see something suspicious, especially after dark, please call the police @ 302-378-5218. Remember – THIS IS YOUR PARK! Please help us protect it and stop the vandalism.

To aid in this quest, Town Council voted to set up a reward for any information supplied to the police that leads to the arrest and conviction of anyone vandalizing the park. Please help us catch the vandals destroying “OUR” park!

Completed Park Maintenance Projects - 2014

Mulch – Additional playground mulch has been placed in all three (3) playground areas to maintain a safety cushion for children playing on the swings and playground equipment in those areas.

Small Gazebo Restoration - The New Castle County Vo-Tech carpentry students were unable to assist the Town with the restoration of the small gazebo by the children’s playground area this year as originally planned. Unfortunately, vandalism necessitated that repairs be completed as quickly as possible so the job was awarded to a contractor. The repairs and restoration have been completed. The gazebo now looks better than ever!

Electric Service at the Park – With the help of a governmental grant, The Town is in the process of having electrical service provided at the park in the pavilion and the gazebo. Power to electrical outlets and overhead lighting will be available for Town functions and will be kept within a locked control panel at all times. The power installation will enable us to expand the scope of Town sponsored events at the park. Types of events we would like to look into scheduling are concerts, seminars and movie nights, however, we would welcome your input – so please share any ideas or suggestions you may have. If you would like to be involved in the planning process, why not become an active member of the Parks and Recreation Committee?

Important Notice Regarding Street Closures – Within this newsletter are details of the upcoming annual Town Parade and Fair being held on Saturday, September 27, 2014. Please be advised that the Delaware State Police will be closing Main Street between Brook Ramble Lane and Edgar Road and also Edgar Road from Main Street to Helen Drive for the duration of the parade. Please take this into account should you need to enter or exit onto Main Street between the hours of 10:00 and 11:00 am. Because of the size of the parade, Brook Ramble Lane in Townsend Station will be utilized to line up parade participants beginning at 9:00 am. In order to keep the roadway as open as possible, it would be appreciated if residents of Brook Ramble Lane, Main Street and Edgar Road (to Helen Drive) did not have their vehicles parked in the roadway between 9:00 am and 11:00 am. Thank you in advance for helping make our annual parade a huge success! Hope to see you all there – bring your Friends!



Who Remembers the STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL?

It has been said that several years ago the annual Townsend Strawberry Festival was an event not to be missed! Residents, farmers and merchants would congregate at Town Square and have a great time socializing and enjoying local strawberries! It sounds like this is a tradition we should consider resurrecting, so if enough residents are interested - and willing to assist in the planning - we would like to hold our first Strawberry Festival in the park next spring. Please call Town Hall or e-mail me (lgorman@townsend.delaware.gov) with any memories you may have about what made it so special before, or any suggestions on how to make it even more memorable going forward.

***** ARE YOU A VETERAN *****

Townsend honors and thanks all Veterans for their service to our Country. Bring in your picture, we will make a copy and proudly display it in the Town Hall!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

Are you a coupon clipper? Bring your cut out, unused and expired coupons to the Town Hall. We send coupon packages to our military stationed overseas. They can use coupons expired up to six (6) months.