

PO Box 223
661 South Street
Townsend, DE 19734
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townsend.delaware.gov
Office Hours: 8:00 – 4:00

Townsend News

March 2015



From the Mayor's Desk

Hello fellow residents,

Spring is around the corner and I am more than ready for warmer days! As most of you are aware, in the fall we purchased the property at 141 Main Street for the future home of the Town Hall. Renovations have started and our goal is to be moved in by September (prior to the Town Fair). We are very excited that the Town Hall will be centrally located along our "quaint" Main Street. Also, we will have room to grow to meet the Town needs at this location. We'd like to thank the Carter family for permitting us to use the current Town Hall for all these years.

I hope you are all enjoying the phase of the downtown streetscape that is completed; we are currently trying to acquire the funds through the state to complete the streetscape.

As a reminder, Town Council meetings are held the first Wednesday of every month at the Townsend Fire company at 7:30 pm. We would love to have more residents attend these meetings as we are always open to new ideas to make a better "Townsend" for all of us. There are also many volunteer opportunities within the Town.

Enjoy the newsletter and checkout our "new" website and our facebook page for all the current news.

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

Adm. Assistant Melissa Faedtke

mfaedtke@townsend.delaware.gov

Maintenance George Hargrove

Town Council Meetings

First Wednesday every month

7:30 pm @

Townsend Fire Hall

Mid-Month Meetings

2 weeks prior to Town Council meetings @ Town Hall @ 7:00 pm



RESIDENTS – REGISTER TO VOTE IN TOWN ELECTIONS

You must be registered to vote in Townsend Council elections, even if you're registered to vote in State/National elections. To register, you must come to the Town Hall @ 661 South Street and bring your ID. You must be registered by April 17, 2015 to vote in this year's election. To be eligible to vote you must meet the following criteria:

- a) Be 18 years of age
- b) Be a citizen of the United States of America
- c) Be a resident within the Town corporate limits for ninety (90) consecutive days immediately preceding the election and /or be a legal owner of property within the corporate limits of the Town of Townsend for ninety (90) consecutive days immediately preceding the election.



VOTER REGISTRATION DATES

Wednesday, March 18, 2015 – 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Saturday, April 4, 2015 – 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Monday through Friday – 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

Bring your ID

Register at the Town Hall, 661 South Street

NOTE: If you haven't voted in 3 consecutive years, you will need to stop by Town Hall to register to vote again.

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TOWNSEND ELECTION

Saturday – May 2, 2015

8:00 am – 6:00 pm

@ Townsend Town Hall, 661 South Street

****Please register and vote, let your voice be heard****

*******Are you interested in being on Town Council*******

Notice of Solicitation of Candidates

Petitions of Candidacy are being accepted from Town residents seeking a position on the Townsend Town Council.

To be eligible to file a Petition of Candidacy you must:

- Be 18 years of age
- Be a citizen of the United States
- Be a legal resident within the Town corporate boundaries for a minimum of 12 months immediately preceding the filing of candidacy
- Be a registered voter within the Town of Townsend.

Petitions of Candidacy can be picked up at the Town Municipal Building from March 2, 2015 through April 2, 2015. They must be filed with the Town Clerk by April 2, 2015 at 4:00 pm and contain the signatures of (10) citizens of Townsend who are registered voters in Town.

Return to: Town of Townsend
Cathy Beaver, Town Clerk
661 South Street
PO Box 223
Townsend, DE 19734

The election will be for three (3) council seats, those currently held by John Ness, Lorraine Gorman and Rudy Sutton. Each seat is for a term of two (2) years.

**Elections will be held on:
Saturday, May 2, 2015
@ Townsend Municipal Building
8:00 am – 6:00 pm**

Absentee Voting

If you are a registered voter in the Town of Townsend but are unable to appear at the polls to vote in person for a reason stated here, you are eligible to vote by Absentee Ballot: 1) Work, 2) Public Service, 3) Religion, 4) Vacation, 5) Illness, 6) Disability, 7) Incarcerated (not for a felony).

Absentee ballots will be available at the Town Hall April 6, 2015 and must be received by May 2, 2015 at 6:00 pm to be counted.

VOTE – LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD

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Hello to all our Town residents,

As Chairman of the Public Works Committee, it is my pleasure to inform you that we will have a new Town Hall this year (see picture above). I'm sure you are all familiar with the property at 141 Main Street, and now you can see it since all the vegetation has been cut down. We are excited that the staff that continues to serve the Town will be able to perform their day to day functions in a more comfortable and inviting atmosphere and the residents will have a Town Hall they can be proud of. Our goal is to provide a professional environment while maintaining the rich history of "Our Main Street".

We'd like to give a special thanks to the Carter family who has been more than kind by providing our current office space for the Town to operate.

During this winter season, let's keep the elderly in mind as well as the widowed in our community. If you would like to become more involved in our community, please contact me by email.

Yours truly,
Councilman Rudy Sutton
rsutton@townsend.delaware.gov



NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION UPDATE – Councilwoman Lorraine Gorman

The National Wildlife Federation has announced that as part of their initiative to promote pollinators, a "Monarch Butterfly Pledge" is being launched in March 2015. Details are still being developed but there will be opportunities to engage children and families, as well as schools in taking the "butterfly heroes" pledge by planting a butterfly garden. As it stands now, a parent would post a photo of their child or family doing the American Sign Language sign for the butterfly – the photo is a required part of the pledge. After they upload their photo they would get a regionally appropriate kit of native seeds with nectar flowering seeds known to attract butterflies, a Ranger Rick Nature Journal and information about how to certify the property. Special incentives, including the opportunity to win a trip for 4 to Disney, are under consideration. As soon as details have been finalized, information will be posted on our website. In the interim, feel free to contact me at lgorman@townsend.delaware.gov if you would like information on how to have your yard certified as a wildlife habitat. *It's easier than you may think!*

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Public Safety Update – Councilman John Ness

Update on CODE RED Notification system!!!

Townsend is now a participant of the **"CODE RED"** emergency notification system. Residents may have an automated message on Thursday, January 22, 2015. Please go to <https://public.coderedweb.com/cne/bfc1934d0d43> or go to www.townsend.delaware.gov and click on the CODE RED icon to register. Based on the level of notification you choose, you can be contacted at your home/work/cell and each email address you designate. This notification system allows residents of Townsend to receive information in case of emergencies and/or important events in Townsend. You can download the CODE RED app for your smartphone. Residents are urged to take two minutes to sign up and tailor the service to your needs. Residents with questions can call Town Hall or contact me at jness@townsend.delaware.gov.

Delaware State Police Lt. Tom Paskevicius will have discussions at future Townsend Council meetings the first Wednesday of each month at the Townsend Fire hall, second floor. Some of the discussions will cover home safety, how to ID scams, and updates on DSP and community policing. Please see www.townsend.delaware.gov for information on future discussions and for all your Townsend information.

There has been renewed interest from residents regarding the Townsend Town Watch. There have been a few residents able/willing to maintain watch in their neighborhoods and report suspicious activity to the DE State Police. Please contact me at Town Hall or email me at jness@townsend.delaware.gov if you are interested in being a part of the Townsend Town Watch. If you see any suspicious activity, please contact the DE State Police at 302-573-2800 or call 911 when appropriate.



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

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Councilwoman Cindy Cook on Community Relations

Being part of our community as an elected official/volunteer is a rich experience. Town Council has made a strong effort to connect our community through social media. As the Town committee chair for Community Relations, I'm very happy to report an increased usage on our Town social media sites. The Town twitter feed, facebook page and Town website are a great starting point when seeking information about our quaint community. Through the Town social media, we are alerting our residents to important up to date information concerning our Town "happenings". We are sharing reminders regarding Town government meetings, posting photos and videos from our community and surrounding area events. If you haven't already done so, join us on facebook and twitter so we can always stay connected as a community. You can find links to our social media by visiting the Town website at townsend.delaware.gov.

Townsend Council is always looking for community members who are willing to be a part of what's happening in our Town by volunteering at Town events. If you are interested in volunteering at any future Town event, contact the Town Hall.

As always, Town Council would like to extend an invitation to all our residents to join us at our Town Council meetings. Dates for meetings are posted on our website. We enjoy and welcome our Town residents input in all government decisions.

PARKS AND RECREATION: Chair – Councilwoman Lorraine Gorman

Park Electrical

Phase I of the electrical installation in the park, which included overhead lighting and electrical outlets in both the pavilion and gazebo has been completed.

Events Held since our September Newsletter

Not too much going on over the winter months, but here's a report on the 2 events that were held....

Town Fair – September 27, 2014

In case you were unable to attend, I'd like to provide an overview that will, hopefully, entice you to attend this year.

As always, the fair began with a parade down Main Street from the fire house to the municipal park on Edgar Road. We were joined by over 50 parade participants which included 3 marching bands, countless floats and show cars, and characters such as Ronald McDonald and Oscar the Grouch.

Our vendor line-up was phenomenal. Over 70 vendors (our record high) set up shop in the park for the day – and reported to us that they had just as much fun as the fair goers. Bounce houses, an obstacle course, kiddie train ride, carnival games and face painting provided excitement for the children. To top it off, there was lots of good food which was enjoyed by all! There were well over 1,000 people in attendance.

Participation in the various competitions run under the direction of Councilman Rudy Sutton was overwhelming. Pictures of the winners of the dance, free throw, jump rope and hula hoop contests are posted on the Town's facebook page. In addition to being awarded prizes, winners of the various competitions were acknowledged by having their names engraved on a plaque proudly displayed at Town Hall – so be sure to look for it the next time you visit.

The Delaware State Police once again awed the crowd with the arrival of their helicopter and K-9 Unit Demonstration, and the Concord Pets costume and trick contests were a huge hit with prizes being awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners and consolation "goody-bags" presented to all entrants.

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Town Fair continued:

Without the generous contributions of our PLATINUM sponsors: DJ Jammin' Jeff – who did an amazing job making announcements and keeping us entertained throughout the day, Smith's Liquors, Artesian Water, Handler Construction, Concord Pets, Remington, Vernick & Beach Engineers, and Mountaire Farms of Delaware, our GOLD sponsors: Jamie's Auto Repair, JS Construction, Waste Industries, Wilcox Landscaping, Walmart and Diamond State Motor Brokers, and our SILVER sponsors: Walgreens and Schmittinger & Rodriguez, P.A. , we would not have been able to have such a successful event. Additional thanks to Smith's Liquors for providing the parade trophies and to Remington, Vernick & Beach for their donation of the Philadelphia Flyers hockey tickets that were raffled off.

Last, but not least, we could not have pulled it off without the united efforts of Council and the many volunteers who helped us all day long doing whatever was required of them.

Christmas Caroling in the Park – December 21, 2014

A big "Thank You" to our own Beth Delligatti, owner of "The Paint-It-Lady", home of Shabby Chic' Painting & Decors on Main Street, for suggesting this event. With the help of the Immanuel United Methodist Church, who partnered with us to provide song selections and seasoned carolers, we welcomed more than 50 carolers to the gazebo. Cider and cookies were served, songbooks were provided and a few "fun" props added to the enjoyment of an hour well spent. For a first time event, it was a huge success – so let's do it again next year and hope for an even greater turnout and possibly combine it with a tree lighting ceremony!

UPCOMING TOWN EVENTS

With spring approaching (and not soon enough), we have several **FREE** events lined up. As always, suggestions for additional activities are welcome – but here is what is scheduled so far:



Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 28th (Rain Date – Sunday, March 29th)

The Easter Egg Hunt will be preceded by a parade of **Easter Bonnets** and **Crazy Hats** at 12:00 sharp, so exercise your creative talents to produce some award-winning head gear.

Prizes will be awarded!

Easter Egg Hunt Times:

Ages 1 and 2	12:20 pm	Ages 5 thru 7	1:00 pm
Ages 3 and 4	12:40 pm	Ages 8 thru 10	1:20 pm

As with last year's event, hot dogs and cupcakes will be served. **POSTCARDS**, which will be mailed a week or two prior to the event will be your **admission ticket** to the event – so be on the lookout for them and remember to **bring them with you, as this event is for Town residents only.**

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COMMUNITY YARD SALE IN THE PARK

Saturday, May 9th
9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Last year a Community Yard Sale was held in the park with about 20 residents setting up shop. This is a great way to have the community get together, meet new neighbors and stop by numerous "garage sales" without ever having to move your car! If you would like to participate this year, please contact Cathy Beaver at Town Hall (378-8082) to register. She will need your name, address, phone number & email address.

Pre-registration is required



COMING IN JUNE

The MOT Line Dancers have agreed to provide instruction and entertainment for an Evening of Line Dancing in the Pavilion. Additional info to follow once date has been finalized.



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**

SCHOOL OF ROCK

Rock Concert in the Park

Saturday, July 25, 2015

Come one – come all – anyone can attend. Feel free to bring dinner or snacks to munch on as you are entertained by local talent. Fun for Everyone!

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TOWN FAIR - 10th ANNIVERSARY

Saturday, September 26, 2015

10:00 am – Parade down Main Street

11:00 – 3:00 pm – Fair

Vendors, Games and Contests in the Park

Something for Everyone!

This is the 10th Anniversary of the Town Fair and we would like to make it extra-special. If you would like to be part of the planning process or have any ideas to share, please contact me via email at lgorman@townsend.delaware.gov, or contact Cathy Beaver at 302-378-8082. If you can spare a few hours to assist the Town and volunteer at the fair, your help would be VERY MUCH APPRECIATED!! We can use parking lot attendants, assistance with traffic control during the parade and bounce house supervision at the park.

Registration forms are available at Town Hall and on the Town's website for anyone who would like to register as a vendor or parade participant (or both). Our vendor fees are still only \$25.00 for a 10' x 10' spot (\$50.00 for food vendors). If you or any of your friends or relatives want to promote a business, and have a great time doing so – the Townsend Fair is the place to be.