



CIVIC LEAGUE For New Castle County

Informed Citizens for Sound County Growth

P.O. Box 11523 - Wilmington, DE 19850

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2010**

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It shall not be the responsibility of the State to establish or maintain local feeder roads to the intrastate road system. State capital improvement costs, now and henceforth, until determined by the State Legislature in future session, shall be confined to the State's long term improvement of its economy and comprehensive protection of Health, Safety and Welfare, wherein not provided by the Federal government or private, independent resource. Capital investment by the State shall be applied, and only as provided under State sustained by State income revenues that are adequate to meet both interest and principal in payment, subject investments to concentrate upon overall improvement of interstate road access, high speed passenger and freight rail, harbor and waterway and air transport improvements, state-of-the-art communications, law access and highest end applied research

C.M. Weymouth, .A.I.A., Board Member

Encourage All To Pay Dues

Collecting dues from everyone in a voluntary civic organization is a challenge, no matter how noble the cause - even the promise that the money will be used for snow removal in the midst of paralyzing winter storms. Further, the plea for fairness falls on deaf ears, when the question is asked - why should a few pay for digging out impassable streets for the safety and convenience of everyone?

You know it's not wise to publish a list of those who don't pay - but do your remember that it is o.k. to issue a list thanking those who have contributed. With this in mind, you have only to think of ways to incorporate this approach in your communications with members to build awareness and support for everyone doing their fair share.

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLE

Monitor and selectively evaluate government actions including laws, regulations and policy.

Provide appropriate forums for informing as well as soliciting input from the public.

Establish positions based on responsible studies and consistent with the aims and purpose of the organization.

Advocate these positions.

Founded in 1962, the Civic League is non-profit volunteer organization, which studies and illuminates County and State government actions concerning comprehensive developments and the quality of life and is a vocal advocate of relevant positions.

County Comments is the official publication of the Civic League for New Castle County.

Dan Bockover,
President

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COUNTY COMMENTS

CIVIC LEAGUE FOR NEW CASTLE COUNTY
Informed Citizens for Sound County Growth

MEETING

Tuesday, June 15, 2010

7:00 PM at the Paul Sweeney Public Safety Building
3601 N. duPont Hwy
(Rte 13 South of DMV, North of Gracelawn Cemetery)

AGENDA

Planning for the Civic League 2010-2011 Program Year

Changing of the Guard at the Civic League

Last month, the Civic League for New Castle County's directors and membership held its annual election of officers in which they supported a significant changing of the guard. Three new officers will take the helm, building upon the work of the past year's leadership that shored up much of the administrative activities of the organization. The completed improvements to our membership database, mailing list, newsletter publication, web site maintenance, and membership fee collection are well established. These efforts will continue with the retention and leadership of the Secretary and Treasurer, and the continued dedication of our database manager. Indeed, these successes have set the stage for the new officers to pursue some new initiatives to strengthen our organizational role as a civic watchdog for many government actions impacting the citizens of New Castle County.

A major priority of the new leadership will be to strengthen the Civic League's capacity and role as advocates for the programs and policy identified by our membership as being best for New Castle County. The motto will be to educate, motivate, and then organize for constructive improvements. We will collaborate where it makes sense, support programs where it is logical, and directly confront the establish powers when necessary to have our concerns heard and considered.

In June, we will have a transition meeting to plan for the future, coordinating with last year's leadership to guide the smooth transition and to provide an opportunity for our membership to share ideas and make

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recommendations for next year's Civic League activities. We do not meet in July and August, but our work will continue so we hit the ground running in September.

In the short term, we will be sending out an online survey to all members to gather information about the interest, needs, and priority issues of our membership; enabling us to learn how best to engage membership in our work.

We will schedule several candidate forums over the summer recess to be held prior to the fall elections and will be considering a special event prior to the September primary elections. These will provide an opportunity to have some of the key issues identified by membership discussed by candidates for public office. We believe that providing public forums to hear and document the promises of candidates, and then ensuring they keep these promises; is a key responsibility for civic organizations throughout New Castle County that make up our membership.

We will also be conducting some formal advocacy training programs. In addition to this training, we will be implementing a mentoring program for civic groups that need help developing and implementing an advocacy campaign for an issue affecting their community.

We will undertake the updating of our bylaws to better reflect the changing nature of communication and the need for flexibility that allows us to rapidly respond to community issues and concerns when they arise. This update will consider the changing use of technology such as e-mail, blogs, and social media and how they have changed the way we do business and should be better utilized to meet our mission.

While we must maintain our current outreach done with our website and newsletter, we must also use new technology for improved advocacy and communication with our membership. The emerging technology is not only adding a different way of communication, but a new way of working together. It provides increased opportunity for collaboration, rapid response, and advocacy. It also provides a tool to get out information that the print media no longer covers, which further contributes to their decline in our evolving society.

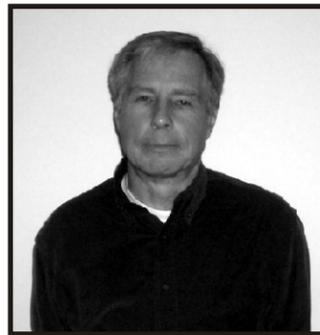
As we move into the coming year, The Civic League for New Castle County will adapt and evolve to continue to be a powerful, accurate voice and advocate for the volunteer members that are the organization. We look forward to working with all of you, the members of the Civic League, to keep making a difference in New Castle County as we have done for almost 50 years.

Sincerely,

Chuck Mulholland, President Elect

Bill Dunn, Vice President Elect

Dave Carter, Vice President Elect



President Elect
Chuck Mulholland

Matching Growth to Available Infrastructure

(ABBREVIATED FOR THIS NEWSLETTER. FULL TEXT on WWW.CivicLeagueforNCC.Org)

This proposed legislation denies new residential development growth within State Jurisdictions unless there exists prerequisite economic growth requiring proximate residential housing. For permitted residential growth, provision is herein made for direct fiscal responsibility for initial construction and anticipated maintenance of all necessary infrastructure to be borne by those immediate user beneficiaries. Such designated infrastructure shall include, but shall not be limited to: roads, sewers, lighting, and, substantially, capital and maintenance costs of schools, and that proviso for the existent private home and existing housing development to be mutually shared, such costs to include but be not limited to maintenance/upkeep, snow removal, etc.

Be it further provided in subject legislation in denial of additional residential growth (unless demonstrated economic growth), that such restriction determined herein to continue forth, diminishing State and local government duty, fiscal outlay and employment until there exists necessary economic basis requiring an additional population response and with adequate tax base immediate thereto to absorb such costs.

Planning, zoning, and the regulation land use have become most important functions delegated to County and Municipal governments (in their administrative and legislative capacities); and because decisions made by each sub government have far reaching and serious consequences for the future of this entire State and our neighboring jurisdictions: focusing upon those critical issues of the National economy and local quality of life.

The quality of our lives, the health of our citizens, the appearance of our natural and manmade areas, the functioning of our roads, the health of our waters and air, the sustainability of our wildlife, the availability of local food sources, the safety and security of our residents, are each impacted by actions and decisions by subject government sub units, though, in fact, fiscally underwritten by direct State and Federal subsidy and,

A disproportionate number in population have moved to Delaware due to low taxes and have chosen to stay for those purposes and the new found quality of life and open space, and

It is the duty of the State Legislature with its preemptory powers to clarify existing standards, formulate new standards to guide government sub units and their subject agencies,

Local sub unit government mandates shall be modified to the following: Existent and proposed State comprehensive planning and regulatory provisions, Federal laws and regulations for roads, infrastructure, pertaining to the environment health, safety and welfare, responsibility for infrastructure costs thereto, shall be followed in strict accord. Local planning agencies, including Counties and all Municipalities and unincorporated lands shall place upon the individual land owner fiscal responsibility for all elements of infrastructure as heretofore described and the continued enforcement of such maintenance upon the individual land owner, whether as enjoined local civic body or, alternately, as an individual.

In conclusion, any existent or proposed residential subdivision within any incorporated or unincorporated lands of the various Counties shall provide, at their own cost, maintenance of those correspondent subdivision roads, walks, local open space/parks, sewers, including but not limited to snow removal, lighting replacement with school capital costs apportioned to subject individual owner and with incumbent user fee for the later based upon projected enrollments and to include reduction of existent correspondent capital debt. County Parks and Libraries serving outside parochial need shall be incorporated within the State system, the County Police system reincorporated into the State Troop.

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