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THE OBSERVER of the 4th DISTRICT
 For the City of Dover, Delaware
 COUNCILWOMAN SOPHIA R. RUSSELL

PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF DELAWAREANS



There are many agencies in the local Dover area available to provide assistance to Delaware residents. One of these agencies is the Community Legal Aid Society, Inc. (CLASI). The staff of attorneys and paralegals provide legal services in civil matters only. All the attorneys are licensed to practice law in the State of Delaware. Many are recognized experts in their field.

There is no fee for services rendered. Funding for the services are provided by private, public and government resources. CLASI does not handle criminal mat-

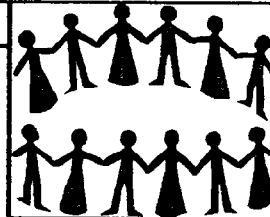
ters. The services it does provide include advocacy, advice and counsel, negotiation, representation at administrative hearings and in court, and community legal education programs in the following areas:

- ⇒ **Housing:** evictions; unsafe housing conditions; code violations; lock-outs; public housing rights; Section 8 and other subsidized housing rights and mortgage foreclosures.
- ⇒ **Government Benefits:** Social Security/SSI; food stamps; Medicare/Medicaid; welfare; general assistance and immigration issues.
- ⇒ **Immigration Issues:** representation of individuals and families in legal matters related to immigration status; representation of immigrants in asylum and removal cases and in seeking

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Child ID Form
 See
 pages 3 & 4.

THINK ON THESE THINGS ...



WHAT CAN WE DO AS MUNICIPAL LEADERS?



Municipal leadership is essential to developing and sustaining effective interventions that promote physical activity, access to health foods, and health eating among children and youth. Although Mayors and City Council members are not public health officials, they are well positioned to play important roles in the fight against childhood obesity. Changes in city policies in areas such as land use, parks and recreation programming, can serve as the centerpiece for community-wide efforts to promote regular exercise and good nutrition.

As leaders we can use our position to educate the public about the threat that obesity poses to children's health. We can join with school district officials to develop and implement school wellness plans, which the federal government now requires for all schools receiving federal funds for school meal programs.

REVITALIZATION DOES NOT HAVE TO HURT LOW INCOME RESIDENTS



Provo, Utah officials begun revitalizing neighborhoods through reinvestment, new construction and historic preservation, according to a December 2006 article in the publication 'American City & County'. City officials wanted improved neighborhoods to attract a "diverse mix of residents" so they are 'carving out room for affordable home and apartments to complement high-end restoration. Dubbed the Maeser Project, the historic treasure was an abandoned elementary school closed in 2002. Today an ongoing rehabilitation project is transforming the school into 31 apartments for low income seniors. 'In the last decade, numerous cities have touted their downtown revitalization programs', thus encouraging residents to embrace urban life. This features main streets where people can walk or bike to shops and leave autos at home.

'...redevelopments often unintentionally force lower income residents to move away to find affordable housing', according to Affordable Housing and Smart Growth: Making the Connection'. Smart growth may not be achieved if affordable housing communities are excluded. Statistics offered show providing affordable rental properties downtown could reduce crime, encourage reinvestment and may help stabilize the tax base.

New funding sources from grants, such as Restore America, the affordable housing and historic preservation tax credit programs, and the HOPE VI of DHUD, may help preserve some buildings, saving a portion of the housing for affordable units. Affordable housing has come a long way since the "days of the projects ... the success of any local economy depends on all different people and all different income levels".

(See "THINK" cont'd. on page 3)

AN OPEN LETTER TO DOVER CITIZENS

The City of Dover Police Department employees possess a high level of dedication and professionalism. The sworn and civilian employees of the DPD make up a team whose primary goal is to "protect and serve" all of the residents and visitors in Dover.

I believe the citizens of Dover have a police department they can be proud of. The DPD is a full service police department. We currently have a Patrol Division; Special Enforcement Division; Criminal Investigations Unit; Drugs, Vice and Organized Crime Unit; Community Policing Unit; a Special Operations Response Team; Crisis Negotiations Unit, and a K-9 Unit. We are Nationally Accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA). DPD has some of the highest clearance rates of any department in the State of Delaware. Our clearance rates exceed the National averages in the 29 categories that are listed in the National Crime Clearance Comparison Study. In this study, we are compared to other cities with similar populations.

It is my sincere hope the citizens of the City of Dover feel they are safe and well protected. I would also like to extend an invitation to all citizens to attend one of the DPD's Citizens Police Academies; the next academy is scheduled for March 2007. For further information on attending, contact Sgt. William Kent at 736-7116.

Chief Jeffrey Horvath

"THINK" cont'd from page 2)



Local governments are creating incentives for private developers to include affordable housing in revitalization projects. Cities like Miami, Florida; Santa Ana and San Diego, California; as well as the Arlington County of Washington State, are but a few of the communities that have invested in the approach of housing programs for low and moderate income residents. The formula which seems to be working for them and may be tried in other cities.

EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT: Need help doing taxes? Earn less than \$38,000 a year? You may be eligible for a refund and free tax preparation. There are 23 help sites throughout Delaware. For more information call the Delaware HELPLINE at 1-800-464-4357.

CHILD IDENTIFICATION FORM

This information can be useful to help find your child if missing. It should be taken to the local police department immediately. Fill out this page; cut it out and keep it on the refrigerator. Make all your family members aware of this form and its location. If there is more than one child in your family, copy this page and complete one for each child.

If your child is missing from home, search the entire house, checking all rooms, closets, under beds and wherever children may crawl or hide. If your child disappears while in a store, notify the store manager or security officer and call the local police department. Many stores have a Code Adam plan of action and employees immediately mobilize to look for the missing child.

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Address _____

Home/Cell Telephone Number _____

Name of Child _____ Nick Name _____

School Name & Address _____

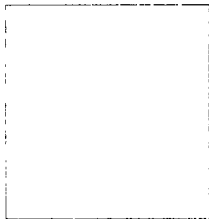
Teacher's Name _____

FRONT
VIEW
PICTURE

SIDE
VIEW
PICTURE

Date Photos Taken _____

Age When Photo Taken _____



Left thumb Right thumb
Use stamp pad ink or Black ink for thumb prints

Age _____

Date of Birth _____

Eye Color _____

Hair Color _____

Height _____

Weight _____

Language Spoken _____

Hobbies _____

Clothing when last seen * _____

Identifying Mark(s) _____

*** Complete when taking form to authorities. Use the reverse side of this form for any other information that may be helpful.**

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND INFORMATION

PARENTS ACADEMY WORKSHOP

Tuesday, March 20, 2007 at 6:30PM at the William Henry Middle School

A workshop entitled 'Project: Cyber-Safety', presented by the US Attorney's Office. Learn secret codes children use on the computer. Find out how to protect your family from cyber-predators and identity theft. Free admission and child care available for children ages 4 and up. Registration is appreciated but not required by calling 672-1766.

DC3/IMA Essay Contest Winners

In an effort to educate Dover youngsters on substance abuse and HIV/AIDS prevention efforts, an essay contest was co-sponsored by Dover's Caring Community Coalition (DC3) and the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance (IMA) of the Greater Dover area. Essays were on the following topics:

4th through 7th grade category: Topic: Substance Abuse Prevention Topics

- What does it mean to be drug free?
- How can I lead the way to increase substance abuse efforts among youth in the Greater Dover area?

8th through 12 grade category: Topic: HIV/AIDS Prevention

- What does compassion and acceptance mean to you?
- How will you lead the way to increasing HIV/AIDS prevention efforts among youth in the Greater Dover area?

Prizes awarded in the amount of \$50 (1st place) and \$25 (2nd place)

Winners:	Jasmine Rocha	Calvary Baptist Church (5th Grade)
	Ashleigh Summers	Bibleway Temple C.O.G.I.C. (11th Grade)
	Cameron Corbertt	First Pilgrim Baptist Church (4th Grade)
	John Moore, jr.	Calvary Baptist Church (12th Grade)

The **SEED-STAR Program** is two tuition assistance programs. The SEED will pay tuition at a two year school; the STAR will pay the remaining 2 years in a four year college. Students must have a 2.5 GPA; no felony charges or record of drug use. Call 302-577-8744 for more information.

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benefits under special adjustment and temporary protected status; informational services and guidance to immigrants with other legal problems.

⇒ **Family Issues:** representation of victims of domestic violence (protection from abuse orders, related child custody issues, divorce and property division). Note: These services are available in Kent and Sussex Counties only.

CLASI has several different programs, as follows:

- 1 **Elder Law Program (ELP)** - this program handles legal issues of interest for people age 60 and over including consumer problems; advanced health care directives; powers of attorney and landlord/tenant issues. *
- 2 **Disabilities Law Program (DLP)** - this program is Delaware's protection and advocacy system that serves people with physical and mental disabilities. It helps clients in appropriate treatment; freedom from discrimination; access and accommodation; government benefits; special education services; freedom from abuse and neglect; individual service plan and other rights related to their disability. *
- 3 **The Fair Housing Program (FHP)** - provides representation statewide to residents whose rights have been violated under federal and state fair housing laws in all kinds of matters related to housing.

*NOTE: there are no income requirements for services provided by the Disabilities and the Elder Law Programs.

Other services include Community Legal Education Workshops; Outreach to individuals who are in institutions or are homebound. Services not handled by CLASI are personal injury cases/accidents; malpractice cases; divorces; wills; traffic offenses and criminal matters.

Call CLASI to learn if you are eligible for their services.

CLASI, 840 Walker Road, Dover, De - 674-3464 - Elder Law Program
674-8503 - Disabilities Law Program
674-8500 - TTY/TDD

Community Svc Bldg, 100 W. 19th St, Ste 801, Wilmington, De (New Castle County)
302-575-0666 - Elder Law Program
302-575-0690 - Disabilities Law Program
302-575-0660 - TTY/TDD

144 E. Market Street Georgetown, De - 856-4112 - Elder Law Program
856-3742 - Disabilities Law Program
856-0038 - TTY/TD

FREE SERVICES @ THE LIBRARY

Computer and Internet Usage

Computer use is available for a maximum of 3 hours a day. All computers have MS Office as well as connection to the internet. Should you need to print information from the internet, the first 10 pages are free every day. There is a \$.10 charge for every additional page.

Copy Machine

Although only black ink copying is available; the first 10 copies a day are free. Thereafter each additional copy is \$.10.

Fax Machine

The library will fax and receive local documents free of charge.

All services provided by the county and or municipal libraries require a library card. The application for a library card is short and the card is free.



A NEW BEGINNING

A place of confidentiality and safety for men and women as they sort out their sexual and relational identity. Using four support group programs, Cross Current (8 weeks); Living Waters (30 weeks); SALT (20 weeks) and The River – a youth support group (30 weeks), A New Beginning serves as a support group for individuals with broken relations. Each team member complements the group by being able to relate to others out of their own personal experiences.

By courage, determination and support in Christ, everyone is helped to learn love, patience and trust which is essential in breaking free from broken relations. For more information on this program, contact George A. Baldwin, Coordinator; A New Beginning (S.A.M.) Inc., PO Box 352, Dover, De 19903 – 674-4393.