

DECEMBER
2006
ISSUE ONE

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302 - 734-8118

THE OBSERVER for the 4TH DISTRICT
Dover, Delaware
COUNCILWOMAN SOPHIA R. RUSSELL

My Thanks to Each of You ...

As the first Black female elected to office in the City of Dover, I take this opportunity to thank you for supporting my run for the office of Councilperson for the 4th District. This newsletter "The Observer", the first of its kind in the fourth district, will be one of the ways I intend to use in order to keep residents informed of City Council activities. The Observer will be published quarterly and will include various information critical to our every day lives.

Special thanks to those who gave donations and volunteered at the Back to School event I sponsored earlier this year. Feel free to contact me should you have any questions on the information contained in The Observer.

MAY EACH OF YOU HAVE A BLESSED AND SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON

**LOOKING FOR
SANTA'S HELPERS ...**

help make the
December 23, 2006
Christmas Party for all needy
children of Dover a success.
For more information
see page 5 or call me.

**CAN YOU DO
THE MATH ...**

what is 3,524 minus 378?
Yes, it does equal
3,146, but what else
does that mean?
For more information
see page 3 or call me.

**NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATIONS**

are an important part of
our community. If you
are not participating in
one, make a new year's
resolution to be part of
the solution, not part of
the problem.

- WHAT YOU WILL FIND INSIDE -

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CITY OF DOVER TELEPHONE NUMBERS
(Do not use area code (302) when making local calls)

Information – Municipal Offices	736-7000
Mayor's Office	736-7004
City Manager	736-7005
City Council	736-7006
Inspections	736-7010
Planning	736-7010
Property Taxes & Assessments	736-7022
Trash	736-7025
Water/Sewer	736-7060
Electric Emergency	736-7086
Library	736-7030
Post Office	734-5821
Police Department	736-7111
Police, Fire & Ambulance	911

KENT COUNTY AND OTHER PHONE NUMBERS



Kent County Information	744-2300
Building Permits	744-2451
Inspections & Enforcement	744-2445
Kent Conservation District	741-2600
Levy Court	744-2305
Planning & Zoning	744-2471
Receiver of Taxes	744-2341
Recorder of Deeds	744-2314
Registrar of Wills	744-2330
Sheriff	736-2161
Delaware Helpline	1-800-464-4357
Consumer Protection Unit	1-800-220-5424
Division of Child Protective Services	739-4800
Division of Child Support Enforcement	739-8295

DO YOU VOTE/ATTEND CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEETINGS??? 3

The 4th District is a special community because it is our home ... it is where we live. We should all be concerned about what happens there. Your neighborhood or civic association needs your participation. Get involved in our community and in the voting process.

Do the math ... in the 4th District, there are 3,524 individuals registered to vote. In the election held April 18, 2006, only 378 registered voters went to the polls. The answer to the math quiz is 3,146 registered voters did not vote. Take a moment and add a reminder to your calendar. Residents of the 4th District vote at the Elks Lodge No. 1903 which is located at 200 Saulsbury Rd.



If you have not registered, it is an easy process. Ask me! I can help you. The Division of Motor Vehicles or the Department of Elections also have applications. There is no fee involved and it only takes a moment.

Have a great Holiday Season ...

I am happy to be part of this first issue of The Observer, the 4th District newsletter published by Councilwoman Sophia Russell. I would like to report:

- ◆ We just completed our Fall 2006 water line flushing. This is an important part of keeping our water lines clean so that we minimize the brown water we have been experiencing. Thanks to everyone for their patience during the flushing and hope not too many people had problems. Overall we had 51 brown water complaints during the flushing. This is below average.
- ◆ I hope children in the area enjoy the new playground equipment at the Mary Street Pocket Park. The City has been upgrading one playground a year to meet safety standards for playgrounds with a cushioned surface.
- ◆ The City passed a new ordinance sponsored by Councilwoman Russell restricting indoor furniture and equipment being placed outdoors in yards and on porches. This new ordinance was in response to numerous complaints from citizens. If you have any questions, contact the Inspections Department at 736-7010.

The best source of information is our website at www.cityofdover.com. If you do not have a computer, our library has free internet access for everybody to use. I always enjoy speaking with our citizens, so please do not hesitate to call me at 736-7005 with your questions or comments. Have a great Holiday Season!

Anthony DePrima
City Manager

THINK ON THESE THINGS ...



- ◆ Monthly bills are rising faster than resident's pay checks as the cost of living is outpacing wages in Delaware. It is rising up so much, it is putting us back in the grave where we started when we were making minimum wage. Utility increases have made Dover residents sharply aware of the increasing cost of living. During the past five years in the state, electricity rates have increased 50%, cable TV and water prices have each gone up more than 30%.
- ◆ Older Americans comprise the most rapidly growing segment of the population in Kent County. The Kent County TRIAD is a partnership of law enforcement, senior citizen groups and community service providers. Its focus is the safety and security of seniors. TRIAD is dedicated to recognizing, evaluating, creating and implementing programs that benefit seniors. It is committed to involving senior volunteers in achieving these goals. TRIAD meetings are held at the Delaware State Police Museum at 1425 No. Dupont Highway in Dover. They meet every month on the 2nd Thursday at 10am. For more information, contact Lester Johnson at 739-4211 ext. 237. Volunteers are welcomed.
- ◆ Nearly 600 health services in Delaware are a mouse click away on internet. The website is a health guide to finding services close to where you live. Sponsored by the Delaware Academy of Medicine and the National Library of Medicine's Medline Plus, Mr. P.J. Grier, Director of Library and Information Services at the Academy advises the information is commercial free. For more info contact Kent County Librarian Patty Hartmannsgruber at 736-7079. The website is www.medlineplus.gov/del.
- ◆ Don't have a computer, see TEL-MED in the Blue Pages of the Verizon telephone book. TEL-MED is an automated telephone system of recorded health messages on medical, dental and other health related subjects. Dial 571-1010 on a touch tone phone. Follow the recorded instructions. Information is available in English and Spanish 24 hours a day. DO NOT USE TEL-MED in case of an emergency; to replace your doctor or other health care professional; or, to determine if you have a health problem. The consumer health information is provided by The Delaware Academy of Medicine, 1925 Lovering Avenue, Wilmington, De 19806, 302-571-1101 or www.delamed.org. (Area Code is necessary when dialing Wilmington)

- ◆ MAAM = Mature African Americans for Mammography. It is a division of the Delaware Breast Cancer Coalition, and targets women of color to increase breast cancer awareness. MAAM encourages screening through mammography among African American women. The women are educated at meetings on the issues surrounding breast cancer by speakers who are either survivors and or medical professionals in the health care industry. In some instances free mammograms are possible. MAAM holds monthly meetings every first Saturday at Kent General Hospital, General Foods Conference Room, 1st floor; 10am - 11:30am. The meetings are hosted by Ms. Barbara Tucker, Outreach Specialist, Delaware Breast Cancer Coalition, Inc. (DBCC) Call 672-6435 for more information and confirmation of meeting schedule.. The DBCC programs educate both men and women on the risks of breast cancer. Yep .. men get breast cancer also.



Music

A Christmas Party for Needy Youngsters

1 to 4pm on Saturday, December 23, 2006

Prudence Lodge No. 6 (New Square Club)

1412 State College Road, Dover, De

Donations of toys/dollars needed - Helping Hands welcomed

- Refreshments will be served -

Call me at 734-8118 for more information

Games

Greetings ...

As Mayor of the City of Dover, I welcome you to the first issue of The Observer, a newsletter about the people, events and concerns of the 4th District. I hope you will enjoy reading this information filled resource which is produced by Councilwoman Russell for your community. If you are not already an active member of your community, I encourage you to become one by participating in your area's civic association. Only by working together and becoming involved, can we make Dover a better place to live and work for everyone.

Sincerely,

Stephen R. Speed, Mayor



Greetings Citizens of Dover ...

Happy Holidays to each of you as we prepare to celebrate the Birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Your prayers for our community, our City, State, and Nation are vital to our great relationship with God. Continue to press toward the Mark of His High Calling and our Community will be the better for it. May God bless all of your endeavors.

Reuben Salters

Councilman 4th District

6 QUESTIONS & ANSWERS ON CITY OF DOVER SERVICES ??

A street light is out in front of my house. Who do I call?
 Call Electric Systems Operations Center at 736-7086. Each light pole has a number on it. We need that number to identify the correct pole.

How old must I be to qualify for the Senior Citizen Property Tax Exemption and do I have to file every year?
 You must be 65 before March 1st of the year the exemption is filed. Yes, the City of Dover currently requires all applicants to reapply every year.

Is there a reduced tax for disabled veterans? Not yet.

How do I get an unsafe pothole in a road near my house fixed?
 To report maintenance requests for roads in need of repair, call the Public Works Department at 736-7026. The City may have it scheduled for repair.

When should I receive my tax bill or supplemental bills?
 Tax Bills are mailed out on July 1; supplemental bills are mailed the first week in September, the first week in January and the first week in April.

Can I pay my tax bill by credit card?
 Yes, tax bills can be paid with most major credit cards, or debit cards. Call 736-7040 or pay in person at 5 E. Reed Street.
NOTE: Do not use area code (302) when making local calls.
The telephone operator will advise when it is necessary.

FUTURE CITY OF DOVER EVENTS (mark your calendars)	
Event	Date
First Night Dover	December 31, 2006
St. Patrick's Day Parade	March 18, 2007
Old Dover Days	May 4 & 5, 2007
Spring/Summer Performing Arts on the Green	Thursdays at 7PM
African American Festival	June 23, 2007
Fourth of July Celebration	July 4, 2007
Amish Country Bike Tour	September 8, 2007

FOOD BANK PROGRAMS 7

The organizations listed below operate food bank programs in the City of Dover. Note the meals are available only on the days and times specified.
 ✂ Cut this information out and pass it on to those in need. ✂

Salvation Army, Forrest Street
 11:30am to 12:30pm – Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays

Mt. Zion AME Church, No. Queen and Fulton Streets
 11:30am to 12:30pm on Tuesdays

Holy Trinity UAME Church, So. New Street
 2:00pm to 4:00pm on Tuesdays



Whatcoat United Methodist Church, 341 Saulsbury Road
 5:00pm to 6:00pm on Wednesdays



IDENTITY THEFT & MEDICARE/MEDICAID

Identify theft has a new focus! According to the September 2006 AARP publication, 'Bulletin', the latest ploy targets those with Medicare or Medicaid. Pam Dixon is a representative of a consumer group in San Diego, California and is quoted in the article, "Stealing Your Health". "People 50 and over are at the greatest risk because they often have some kind of government issued insurance, such as Medicare or Medicaid". According to Ms. Dixon, "selling someone's medical file and insurance data on the black market gets top dollar". She suggests the system is so large and automated, the government does not really do medical insurance fraud alerts. A common scenario seems to occur at little known health clinics who offer free medical checkups. Ms. Dixon suggests this is a signal to go the other way as the clinic may be staffed by phony medical personnel only to lure seniors to get their personal information. Other thefts are done by "moles", or employees, who copy patient files after being hired unwittingly at legitimate medical practices. Patient information may also be secured by combing through the trash of medical offices, and/or soliciting personal data online.


How to fight back? Review doctor and Medicare/Medicaid bills! Question treatment you did not receive! If you notice errors or suspect identify theft, immediately contact the physician. Request your file be corrected! Medical treatment is affected as the wrong information in your medical files could result in an incorrect diagnosis and treatment harmful to you. Monitor your credit report with Equifax, Experian and TransUnion. Newborns are issued a social security number upon birth. Check their credit report!! To request free credit reports annually, go to the Federal Trade Commission website at www.ftc.gov/credit.



FIRST RESPONDERS



Our Fire Fighters, Police Officers, and Emergency Medical Trans-
 porters (EMTs) are the first to respond to accidents, fires, medical emergencies
 and other incidents. We, the public, very often do not give them the RIGHT OF
WAY. Simply put, the 'right of way' means as drivers, once we see the flashing
 lights and or hear the sirens, we must immediately pull off the road, and allow
 those emergency vehicles to pass. In order to hear the sirens, we must keep the
 radios, CDs and tapes at a lower volume. In order to see the flashing lights, we
 must pay attention to the traffic and to our driving. It is the law, but equally im-
 portant, it is the responsible thing to do. It could save your life, or that of your
 loved ones. These individuals serve us diligently and oftentimes we forget to ac-
 knowledge them for the service they provide to us. The holidays are here.

I ask that we all take time to be mindful of the first responders as we drive 
 throughout the streets and roads in the City of Dover.

A Message ...

The Department of Justice is particularly committed to prosecuting those offenders
 that victimize our most vulnerable citizens: our children and our senior citizens.
 Nationally, senior citizens are becoming more and more frequently the target of
 crimes. With baby boomers aging, the incidence of abuse and mistreatment is ex-
 pected to increase over the next few decades.

Intervening and preventing such crimes poses significant difficulties for authorities.
 Victims often are embarrassed, intimidated and overwhelmed by the situation. The
 perpetrator is often a spouse or an adult child or relative of the older person. This
 combined with social isolation and dependence compounds the problem and makes
 reporting the crime difficult.

The Department of Justice's Senior Victim Advocate Program (SVAP) can help
 senior victims of crime through the criminal justice process; make the system less
 intimidating; and, in many cases, help produce a better outcome. To learn more
 about the SVAP and other programs within the Department of Justice, contact our
 Dover Office at 739-4211 x261.

Carl Danberg
 Attorney General

COUNT ME OUT!!

Drugs, Gangs, and Alcohol are NOT for me!

A partnership between
 Dover's Seaside Community Coalition (SCC) &
 Interdenominational Multicultural Alliance of Dover & Vicinity (IMAV)



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