

From The Desk of the Town Manager Rebecca L. Greene December 18, 2014

2015 Council Election – Filing Deadline is January 16, 2015

There are two Council positions available each having a three year term. To be qualified to run for Felton Town Council you must be 21 years of age, be a citizen of the United States, have been a bona fide resident of the Town of Felton for one year prior to election day and have never been convicted of a felony or crime of moral turpitude.

To declare candidacy submit a signed and dated letter requesting that your name be added to the 2015 Council Election ballot with a Town of Felton Affidavit of Qualification (available at Town Hall, by mail, fax or email) and State Campaign Finance Certification of Intention Form (also available at Town Hall or online at <u>www.elections.delaware.gov</u>).

Water Rate Structure Proposed Change

The Town is reviewing our current water rate structure. Currently everyone is given a flat rate of \$38 per quarter for 15,000 gallons of water. The Mayor and Council will be reviewing a rate structure that each resident will pay for actual water used. The Quarterly Statement would have a Customer Charge and a Usage Charge. The Customer Charge would include Debt Service (loan payments) and a repair charge (unbudgeted water repairs), this amount would remain the same each quarter. The Usage Charge would be the charge per 1,000 gallons used for each property. The Mayor and Council will be discussing the rates at the January 12th Council Meeting. There will also be special meetings for the public and each resident will receive a letter with dates and times of the meetings along with how this rate change will affect their quarterly bill.

The reason for the rate change is because the Water Department is supposed to be self-sustaining and at this time it is currently running approximately \$54,000 short to cover all water expenses. Instead of changing the flat rate for all residents the new rate structure will have each resident pay only for the water they are using at their home or business.

General Up-Dates

- Delinquent tax statements will be mailed the second week of January.
- Town Hall hours are Monday thru Friday, 9:00am to 5:00pm.
- The Town offers a discount to Senior Citizens for their property taxes. You must be 65 years old by June 30th, the property must be your primary residence and your name must be on the deed. If you are eligible please bring your driver's license to Town Hall by May 31, 2014 to receive the discount. The discount last year was 50%.

• The Town will be picking up Christmas trees on January 6th. This is the only day for pick up. The trees have to be at the curb.

Police Up-Dates

- All passengers in a vehicle need to be in seat belts or child restraints.
- Parking on sidewalks is not allowed and is a fineable offense.
- Please keep your doors locked at all times.
- Secure your vehicles, even in your driveway.
- Please report any suspicious activity to 911. They will contact the Felton Police Department. It is best to call and report the activity while it is occurring.

Utility Bills will be mailed out the first week of January. The bills will be due on February 10th. If the bill is not paid by the 10th of February, a \$25 late fee will be applied to the account. A delinquent letter will be sent out with a disconnect date on the letter, if the bill is not paid by the disconnect date on the letter an additional \$50 disconnect/reconnect fee will be added to the bill and the water will be shut off until payment has been made in full.

In 2015 our trash service will be moved to Thursday for two holidays:

| Memorial Day | May 25th |
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| Labor Day | September 7th |

Dates to Remember

| Jan. 1st | New Years Day – Town Hall Closed |
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| Jan. 2th | Liberal Leave – Town Hall Closed |
| Jan. 6th | Planning and Zoning Meeting – 6:30pm – Town Hall |
| Jan. 12th | Town Council Meeting – 6:30pm – Town Hall |
| Jan. 19th | Martin Luther King Jr. Day - Town Hall Closed |
| Feb. 3rd | Planning and Zoning Meeting – 6:30pm – Town Hall |
| Feb. 9th | Town Council Meeting - 6:30pm - Town Hall |
| Feb. 16th | Presidents Day – Town Hall Closed |
| Mar. 2nd | Council Election – 1pm to 6:30pm – Town Hall |
| Mar. 3 rd | Planning and Zoning Meeting – 6:30pm – Town Hall |
| Mar. 5th | Inclement Weather – Council Election |
| Mar. 9th | Town Council Meeting – 6:30pm – Town Hall |

Planning and Zoning Meetings have a set date but will only occur if there are items for the agenda. If you are interested in attending a PZ meeting check our website to make sure there is a meeting.

You can also go onto our website **felton.delaware.gov** a week before our meetings and review a copy of the meeting agenda. The Town also has a page on Facebook with updates on what is going on in Town.

Please feel free to contact our office with any questions or concerns you may have regarding the Town of Felton.