



File City Income Tax Return Early, Avoid the Lines

The City of Delaware Income Tax office staff is ready to assist with your 2019 return.

Residents can file in person by bringing a tax form, W-2 and any other tax documents to our ground floor City Hall office, 1 S. Sandusky Street.

Hours are 8 am- 5 pm Monday- Friday, with additional hours on Saturday April 4, 9 am-1 pm and extended hours until 7 pm on April 15.

The office can even complete a return. Simply send a signed tax form and W-2 by March 15, with your email address and phone number. Staff will confirm receipt and filing by email.

If you owe any tax you will be notified by posted mail.

Residents are also encouraged to use the e-file tool to prepare a return and, if they qualify, file the

Please see TAX, Page 3

Bridge Warning System Making a Difference

Four bridge strikes in 2019 compared to nine in the previous year

A detection system that warns semi drivers that their vehicles are too tall for a west side bridge has helped reduce the number of bridge strikes and their severity, according to data from the City's Engineering Department.

There were four bridge strikes in 2019, the overhead detection device's first full year in service, compared to nine in 2018.

None of the four strikes last year required calling out city staff to assist in clean-up of truck or cargo debris. This likely is due to the lower speeds the trucks are traveling when approaching the bridge after seeing the warning signs. It is also worth noting that three of the four drivers who drove into the bridge last year, admitted to seeing the sign but ignored the warning.

When the warning system became operational, there were three goals:

1. Get drivers to turn around
2. Prevent high speed impacts that destroy trailers
3. Reduce city effort and cost in incident cleanup

Based on that, the system has been successful. Eliminating bridge strikes altogether isn't likely to happen, but City engineers believe a 50- or 60-percent reduction is possible.

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Ready! Set! Play!

New play toy coming to Mingo Park in time for outdoor season.

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Census 2020 Gearing Up

Every address will receive a Census form by April 1.

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Cosi Science Festival

The City is partnering with COSI and Delaware City Schools to host two events in May

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Pictured is the new play toy and play surface that is replacing the a 20-year-old play feature at Mingo Park.

Ready! Set! Play!

Mingo Park will get a fresh look in 2020 when a new outdoor play toy and playing surface is installed. Work will begin as soon as possible, so it is ready for prime outdoor play time. The existing playground is 20 years old and has been extended beyond its typical life span. The new design will be much more accessible than the existing playground with ramps and features throughout. The new playground surface will be a bonded rubber that looks like mulch but will allow the entire playground to be open and accessible.

Dog Park Closed for Annual Turf Maintenance and Restoration

The Delaware Dog Park is closed until approximately April 15 for scheduled turf maintenance. In the meantime, the following City of Delaware parks have walking trails open to pets (on leash).

- Wetland Park, Adjacent to the Dog Park
- Mingo Park, 500 E. Lincoln Avenue
- Kensington Place Park, Ferguson Avenue and Ashburn Drive

For more information about the Dog Park, email pwcs@delawareohio.net or call 740-203-1810.

Yard Waste Collection Resuming April 13

Yard waste collection will resume for the season the week of April 13. As in the past, yard waste must be in biodegradable lawn/leaf bags, a clearly identified 32-gallon yard waste container or in bundles no longer than 4 feet and 18 inches in diameter. All bags, cans or bundles need to weigh less than 50 pounds.

Residents Have a Voice in Census 2020 Effort

Residents will start seeing census forms arrive in the mail on March 12, but people are being encouraged to respond online. Every address will receive a Census form by April 1.

Responding to the Census helps communities get the funding they need and helps businesses make decisions that grow the economy.

Census information impacts the daily lives of residents, informing important decisions about funding for services and facilities in the community, including health care, senior centers, jobs, roads, schools and businesses.

Federal funds, grants and other support to states, counties and communities are based on population totals and breakdowns by sex, age, race and other factors.

A 2018 study by a George Washington University researcher found that for every person not counted in the 2010 Census, \$1,206 was lost in Ohio.

KEY DATES

February and March 2020

Invitations to participate are distributed.

April 1, 2020

Census Day is observed na-

BE COUNTED

✓ Everyone Counts.
The population count is used to determine where new schools and hospitals are needed and where to add public safety resources.

✓ It's about fair representation.
Population determines the number of representatives in the U.S. Congress.

✓ It's important for jobs.
Businesses use Census Bureau data to decide where to build factories, offices and stores, creating these jobs.

✓ It's about Housing.
Real estate developers and city planners use the census to plan homes and improve neighborhoods.

✓ It's confidential.
Federal law protects your census responses. The answers you give can be used only to produce statistics. By law, an individual's information cannot be shared with immigration enforcement and other law enforcement agencies or used to determine eligibility for government benefits.

tionwide. By this date, every home will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census.

May - Summer 2020

The Census Bureau will follow up with those who have not responded.

COSI Science Festival Events Coming

The City of Delaware is partnering with COSI and Delaware City Schools to host two public events in May that highlight the value of STEM careers and their value in our community.

One event will be at the Delaware Area Career Center and another will coincide with the monthly First Friday celebration. More details will be announced in the coming weeks.

These events will be in coordination with the COSI Science Festival, an annual celebration that promotes awareness of

science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Additionally, each partnering community nominates a STEM Star who serves as a community ambassador at the event.

In recognition of his work in the engineering field as well as his volunteer efforts in the community, Delaware City Council nominated Tajudeen "Taj" Bakare as Delaware's STEM Star.

Bakare has worked in the engineering industry for more than 30 years and also tutors and

mentors on STEM subjects.

Bakare also volunteers as Board Vice-President to the Second Ward Community Initiative and currently is serving as a volunteer on Delaware Together, the City of Delaware's Comprehensive Plan steering committee.

More Information on the 2020 COSI Science Festival can be found at cosiscifest.org

Delaware City Council nominated resident Tajudeen "Taj" Bakare as Delaware's STEM Star for the upcoming 2020 COSI Science Festival



TAX

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return electronically. Search "e-file" at delawareohio.net.

The income tax filing deadline is 7 pm, April 15. More information is available at 740-203-1225 or incometax@delawareohio.net

Q: What is the City of Delaware income tax rate?

A: The rate is 1.85 percent.

Q: Am I required to file an annual Delaware tax return?

A: Resident individuals and resident businesses must file an annual return, even if no tax is due. Non-resident individuals who have income earned in Delaware that is not subject to employer withholding must file

an annual return. Non-resident individuals and non-resident businesses who conduct business in Delaware must file an annual return even if no tax is due.

Q: Is any credit given if I pay tax to another city?

A: A partial credit is given to Delaware resident individuals for taxes paid to another city. The credit is the lesser of .50 of the tax paid to the other city, or .00925 of the income taxed by the other city and Delaware. W-2s or copies of the other city's tax return and proof of payment must support credit claimed.

Q: Where can I get a City of Delaware income tax form?

A: Forms are online at delawareohio.net

and in the ground floor tax office in City Hall, 1 S. Sandusky St.

Q: Can I file electronically?

A: Yes. Residents can use the

e-file tool to prepare a Delaware tax return and, if they qualify, file the return electronically. E-file is available at delawareohio.net.

Delaware Filling Seasonal Job Openings

Have a son or daughter looking for seasonal work? The City of Delaware in March has begun accepting applications for seasonal part-time job openings in several departments. Applicants must be age 18 with a valid driver's license. A pre-employment drug screening is required. Additional information and the online application appears under "Careers" link at delawareohio.net

City Briefs

Oak Grove Cemetery Clean-Up Reminder

Oak Grove Cemetery reminds residents that seasonal and winter decorations should be removed from grave sites on or before March 15. For more information, phone 740-203-1207.



The laser-activated advance warning system activates when vehicles exceed the posted height. The state of Ohio paid for the system and City staff did some of the installation work. It was completed under budget in late 2018 for \$165,000.

BRIDGE

Continued from Page 1

The West Central Avenue railway overpass has been struck by vehicles too tall for the 12-foot 7-inch clearance. Plaques posted on both sides of the bridge are supplemented by 13 advance warning signs (six from the east and seven from the west) on Central Avenue.

All the signs include flashing beacons or LED lights.

Even with all the signage, drivers continued to ignore the warnings. Many impacts resulted in thousands of dollars in costs to the City for debris cleanup and traffic control, hours of travel delay, and inconvenience for neighbors and motorists.

Staff considered lowering the pavement below the bridge to provide more clearance. But reconstructing and widening

Central Avenue on either side of the bridge, upgrades to storm sewers and intersections, and obtaining CSX Railway permission to excavate

below their structure put the projected cost at about \$1 million. Raising the bridge would require even more money and cooperation from the

railroad.

An alternative is the laser-advance warning system that activates for vehicles exceeding the posted height. Studies show that motorists are more likely to obey a traffic control device that abruptly turns on versus one that continuously operates.

The state of Ohio paid for the project and City staff did some of the installation work. It was completed under budget in late 2018 for \$165,000.

Bridge Strike History:
 2017: 6
 2018: 9
 2019: 4

Upcoming Dates

MARCH

March 9 City Council meets

March 15 Oak Grove Cemetery clean-up deadline

March 23 City Council meets

clean-up event

April 13 Yard waste pick-up resumes

April 15 Dog Park re-opens

April 15 Tax Day

April 27 City Council meets

APRIL

April 1 Census Day

April 4 Tax Office open

April 13 City Council meets

April 13 Delaware Run

MAY

May 11 City Council meets

May 16-17 Arts Festival

May 25 City offices closed

City Departments and Services

- Police, 740-203-1111 (non-emergency)
- Fire, 740-203-1300 (non-emergency)
- Recreation, Parks & Natural Resources, 740-203-1810
- Permits, 740-203-1600
- Water, Sewer & Refuse Bills, 740-203-1250
- Planning, 740-203-1600
- City Manager, 740-203-1010
- Airport, 740-203-1870
- Refuse, Recycling, Snow Removal 740-203-1810
- Boards, Commissions, Committees, 740-203-1013
- Engineering, Streets, 740-203-1810
- Legal, 740-203-1010
- Income Tax & Finance, 740-203-1200
- Cemetery, 740-203-1207
- Municipal Court, 740-203-1550

City Council Members

- Carolyn Kay Riggle, At-Large, 740-815-5876
- Kent Shafer, At-Large, 740-602-1420
- George Hellinger, At-Large, 740-972-1750
- Chris Jones, 1st Ward, 740-203-1013
- Lisa Keller, 2nd Ward, 740-203-1013
- Cory Hoffman, 3rd Ward, 740-239-2852
- Drew Farrell, 4th Ward, 740-203-1013