

# N.P.C. NEWS



NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING COUNCIL NEWSLETTER SPRING 2010

City of Wilmington, Department of Planning James M. Baker, Mayor NPC Editor, Sophia Hanson, Planner II

## Introduction Jerome Brown

*NPC President*

*“The greatest challenge to any thinker is stating the problem in a way that will allow a solution.”*

*Bertrand Russell, Philosopher 1872-1970*

As community members and leaders we face challenges daily. The challenges of lowering crime and reducing litter may be all too familiar, while the challenge of implementing green initiatives may present a completely new challenge. As we settle into 2010, I would like to call on City residents to frame community challenges in a manner that promotes resolutions. One mission of the Neighborhood Planning Councils is to develop a problem-solving partnership with neighborhood residents, agencies, and other levels of government to address problems that the community cannot resolve by itself. We challenge you to call or e-mail us to get involved!

## NPC CONTACTS

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## 3rd District Tree Project

Lance Bruce and the 3rd District NPC teamed up with the Delaware Center for Horticulture, the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC), the Delaware Solid Waste Authority (DSWA), Wilmington Public Works, State Senator Margaret Rose Henry, State Representative Hazel Plant, and local businesses for the installation of over 150 trees and the establishment of landscaping along the 12th Street Gateway. This section of Wilmington was determined to have the lowest coverage of tree canopy in the city. The tree variety selected for this project will offer



both shade and seasonal color. A noteworthy aspect of this project was that ex-offenders were trained and hired through the Department of Labor for the implementation of this initiative.



11th Street Urban Farm after the care and hard work of Eric Robinson.

Last year, the NPC Leadership initiated a challenge to citizens and community groups throughout the City. The Greenspace Challenge was



The vacant lot before its transformation.

to identify a public space in need of transformation and to clean it and/or green it. The applications were due to the Delaware Center for Horticulture's City Garden's Department in June. On September 12, 2009, 11th

**Street Bridge Urban Farm; Eric Robinson** was selected as the winner!

The before and after photos showcase the hard work put into making the

City a cleaner and greener place! The contest runner-up was **The Village Garden; Marion Palmer and Pastor Sandra Ben** and the third prize winner was **Canby Park Community Garden; Norma Ramirez**. Honor-

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able mention goes to **East Side Blueprint Development Corp. and Ministry of Caring; Pat Ponzo**. The NPC Leadership would like to congratulate all of the contestants!

**First Place Winner: Eric Robinson and his wife Rosa.**



## NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

On August 4, 2009 the Neighborhood Planning Councils joined the City of Wilmington, Delmarva Power and Delaware Crime Stoppers for National Night Out. This is an annual nationwide crime prevention event. National Night Out was held in Rodney Square

and the NPCs sponsored a table where they distributed community planning information and offered free balloons for the kids. Michele Griffiths and Stephanie Rizzo, seen in the photo, were two of last year's volunteers.



National Night Out in Rodney Square!

## 4th District Community Clean Up: Beyond Clean Sweep

The 4th District NPC planned a Community Cleaning and Barbeque for late June, after Operation Clean Sweep ended. With over 25 volunteers, streets and vacant lots

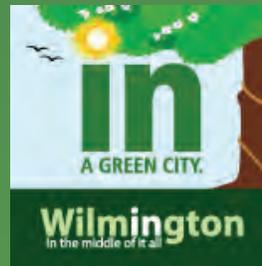
on the East Side were cleaned. The goal of this endeavor was to show the community that keeping the neighborhood clean is a year round effort.



4th District NPC Clean Up day!



### GREEN CITY WILMINGTON! NPC GREEN TIPS



- Change to fluorescent light bulbs
- Wash your clothes in cold water
- Hang your clothes outside to dry or use a drying rack
- Check and change air filter regularly (in the house AND car)
- Install a programmable thermostat in your home
- Use surge protectors and turn off when not in use
- Unplug chargers from the wall when not in use
- Turn off the water when you brush your teeth
- Do not preheat your oven, and turn off 10 minutes before finished
- Stop receiving statements and sign up for electronic ones
- Pay bills online
- Get a reusable bag for shopping
- Plant a tree (contact the Delaware Center for Horticulture to possibly receive a free tree)
- Plant a vegetable garden
- Make sure your automobile tires are properly inflated
- Vacuum the coils of your refrigerator every 3 months
- Buy local foods and support restaurants that do

### Get Involved, Become a Mentor!

Mayor James M. Baker is calling on City residents to help make a difference in the lives of Wilmington's young residents by stepping forward and joining a new mentoring initiative.

City residents interested in mentoring should contact either **Big Brothers Big Sisters** at [www.bbbsde.org](http://www.bbbsde.org), or (302) 998-3577 or **Connecting Generations' Creative Mentoring®** program [www.creativementoring.org](http://www.creativementoring.org) at (302) 656-2122.