



December 15, 2009

Around Delaware

911 Citizens' Academy enrollment under way

Registration opened Monday for the Delaware State Police 2010 "911 Citizens' Academy" for Sussex County. The free classes run Thursday nights, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Jan. 7 to Feb. 1 at the Sussex County Emergency Operation Center in Georgetown. Participants will get hands-on experience and hear talks on many topics "concerning emergency management and coordinating different services for emergency response," Sgt. Walter Newton said. Enrollment is limited, with registration by phone at 858-5300. Anyone 17 or older may participate.

Legislature's expenses posted online for public

The Legislature's expenses were added to the state's online checkbook this week, giving the public more access to their records. The site, checkbook.delaware.gov, was launched in July as part of Gov. Jack Markell's effort to increase government transparency. The searchable database includes basic spending information, the name of the person or company who was paid, the amount of the check and the date it was written. The Legislature, which ended its decades-long exemption to the state's Freedom of Information Act earlier this year, released only records for the three months ending Sept. 30. During that three-month period, the Legislature spent \$409,335. "Making our financial data available online is an effective way to give Delaware taxpayers a clear and more complete view of how their money is being spent," House Speaker Robert F. Gilligan, D-Sherwood Park, said in a news release.
