

DECEMBER 2024

DELAWARE'S FAVORITE PLAYGROUND

Official Newsletter of The Town of Dewey Beach



Happy Holidays!

Thank you to all of our residents and visitors for an outstanding 2024 here in Dewey! While the days get shorter, the nights colder, and we all wind down for a "long winter's nap," those of us spending the off-season here in Dewey get an even greater sense of that "small town charm." From our Dewey Beach family to yours... we're glad to be spending this winter with all of you, and wish you a magical holiday and a very happy New Year. We'll see you in 2025!

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TOWN MANAGER'S

Update

2024 was another outstanding year in Dewey Beach. Our property owners and visitors had a great spring, summer, and fall enjoying both the beach and the bay. None of the accomplishments or successes in Dewey Beach would have been possible without the time, effort, donations, and teamwork of our volunteers and town employees. I'd like to thank the following organizations and individuals for all of your support and hard work keeping Dewey Beach the best beach town on the East Coast:

- Mayor and Town Commissioners
- The many Town Committee Members
- Dewey in Bloom
- The Dewey Beach Civic League
- Dewey Beach Lions Club
- Dewey Business Partnership
- Highway One
- Mario Giovannini (keeping it clean)

As we look to 2025, there are several projects the town hopes to continue or start, including a new Town Hall/police station/paramedic station, improvements to the sidewalks/crosswalks/center island, infrastructure projects on Jersey, Read, and Van Dyke streets, State of Delaware Historical designation for the Lifeguard Station property, and improvements at Sunset Park, to name a few!

I'd like to wish everyone Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas !

-Bill



Rental Tax 101

Understanding Delaware's New Statewide Rental Tax

The Basics

HS 2/ HB 168 was signed into law in September, and will go into effect January 1, 2025. This bill enacts a 4.5% state tax on all short-term rental properties, and requires that accommodations intermediaries acquire a \$25 state license. If you rent out your property on a short-term basis, this legislation applies to you. [Click here](#) to review the bill in its entirety.

State Licensing

"Accommodations intermediary" means any person or company engaged in the business of facilitating a short-term rental to an occupant on a website or other means. If you own a short-term rental property, but you exclusively use a third party (property manager/real estate agent) to handle the renting of your property, you are **not** considered an accommodations intermediary. However, if you facilitate these bookings, such as AirBNB or VRBO hosting, or direct bookings, you **are** an accommodations intermediary, and must acquire a [state license](#).

Rental Tax

The state short-term rental tax is 4.5% of the rent upon every occupancy of a short-term rental within the state. This does not include cleaning fees, insurance, linen rental fees, other add-on fees, or municipal taxes. Accommodations intermediaries are generally responsible for collecting and remitting this tax. The amount of the tax collected for each month shall be reported and paid over to the [State Division of Revenue](#) no later than the fifteenth day of the month following the month of collection.

But... I Already Pay Rental Tax to Dewey Beach!

The state rental tax is separate from the 3% accommodations tax here in Dewey Beach (enacted in 2009 by [Ordinance 661](#)). Property owners of short-term rentals within the town of Dewey Beach will still be responsible for the 3% accommodations tax, as well as their annual town [rental license](#).

Dewey Beach is not responsible for any billing or oversight of the state rental tax, but we are here to help our property owners navigate this change.

How Will the Tax Revenue Be Utilized by the State?

- 62.5% to the state general fund
- 12.5% to the beach preservation fund
- 12.5% to the convention and visitors bureau in each county
- 12.5% to the Delaware Tourism Office

BAYSIDE

Holiday



The Baywalk

Named after our beloved former Mayor, The TJ Redefer Memorial Baywalk is always a must-see during a stay in town, but it becomes even more special during the holiday season. Take a stroll down the boards at dusk for the perfect view of the sunset over the bay. You're in close proximity of restaurants to enjoy dinner and music on the water. The Christmas tree at the end of the pier makes the perfect backdrop for your photos to commemorate this holiday season!



Traditions

No matter which holiday you celebrate this time of year, there's something for everyone at the Baywalk. Thanks to the Chabad of Southern Delaware, a beautiful menorah shines like a beacon of hope, reminding all of us to believe in miracles!



Togetherness

Thanks to our great local businesses on the bay side of town, there's always a place to warm up and enjoy the company of friends and family while enjoying the sunset. The Baywalk is a popular gathering place all year long!

Tree Lighting
Saturday, December 7th
5:30pm

Menorah Lighting
Sunday, December 29th
5:00pm



DEWEY

GIVES

BACK

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE AN IMPACT

Dewey Beach has historically proven that when our community comes together, magic happens! We're continuing our holiday tradition of donating to those in need, and we invite our residents and visitors to join us in this group effort. We understand that the holidays are a busy time, so we're offering multiple ways to give for your convenience, with donation items to fit every budget.

CAPE HENLOPEN SCHOOL DISTRICT GIFT DONATION HAS CLOSED
THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS!





Dewey is a dog-friendly town! With so many animal lovers in our area, it's fitting for us to join Humane Animal Partners in providing for pets in need this holiday season.

During the winter months, shelter animals must spend more time indoors. To combat boredom and depression, enrichment activities are crucial. Our goal is to help provide enrichment toys to our local shelter. Unsure how to choose this type of toy? Use our sign up option to see the shelter wish list!

Humane Animal Partners also maintains a "want list" of items that are always appreciated, such as cat litter, canned cat food, canned pumpkin, and cleaning supplies. These are items that are easy to find at your nearest grocery store. We encourage you to pick up a couple of these items to donate at your next shopping trip. Even small donations are greatly appreciated!

Want to help out even more? Consider participating in the [Doggy Day Out](#) program to give a dog a day of fun outside of the shelter!

**SIGN UP FOR
YOUR GIFT
TODAY!**

Let us know what
you're excited to gift
this year! Hurry! We're
collecting gifts up until
December 13th!



Where the Fun Never Ends!

DEWEY BEACH HOSTS A VARIETY OF EVENTS ALL YEAR LONG!



Holidays at the Beach

The Rehoboth-Dewey Chamber of Commerce is always adding new events to their calendar! Come visit us - the holidays are better at the beach!

[READ MORE](#) 



Winter Events

The Dewey Business Partnership keeps the party going this winter! We hope to see you at the Ball Drop, Dewey Dunk and Winter Gala!

[READ MORE](#) 



Book a Bonfire

Many visitors book a winter bonfire on Dewey Beach to celebrate the New Year! Book your gathering online today!

[READ MORE](#) 



Book an Event

We've always got summertime on our minds here in Dewey! Now is the time to book your wedding or event for spring/summer 2025!

[READ MORE](#) 

RING IN THE NEW YEAR



DEWEY STYLE

Dewey Crush Drop

December 31st
11:30pm

New Orleans St &
Coastal Hwy

Save yourself the trip to Times Square and join us for a "crush drop" right here in Dewey Beach! Beverages and party favors will be available at this free event!

The Dewey Dunk

January 1st
11:30am

Dagsworthy St Beach

Wash away 2024 and start fresh with a dunk in the ice cold ocean on New Year's Day! DJ, bonfire and fun beach party provided! Beverages and swag will be available, too! \$20 donation requested from dunkers 21 and over, \$15 for those under 21.

New Years Eve Parties

Your favorite Dewey restaurants are excited to welcome you for the holiday! A variety of our local businesses will be hosting incredible parties complete with live music, food and beverages. These events often require a ticket, and they do sell out! Be sure to check with your favorite Dewey businesses to see what events they have planned for NYE, and get your tickets today!

SAFETY & REGULATIONS

The goal of town staff is to welcome all of our visitors, protect the public, and ensure safe travel back to their destination at the end of the evening. Safety is a shared responsibility.

- Start 2025 off right! Have a travel plan, and stick to it. At the time of publishing, rideshare promo codes have not yet been released. We recommend keeping an eye on [Lyft](#) and [Uber](#), as NYE promo codes are sometimes offered. Don't forget you can schedule ahead with rideshare companies. Reserve your ride today.
- Local hotels and residential rentals have great rates in the off-season. Don't drive... stay with us! There's nothing better than waking up at the beach.
- Dewey Beach maintains a [curfew](#) for minors year round. Persons under the age of 18 must be off the street by 11:00pm each evening. While we pride ourselves on being a family-friendly destination, in the late evening hours, most businesses cater to crowds 21 and over. For the safety of our younger visitors, parents should ensure their children are at their home or rental by 11:00pm.
- The Dewey Beach Police will be out and about throughout New Years Eve and New Years Day. We're here to keep you safe! If you see suspicious behavior or require assistance, please call 911 or alert an officer directly.
- As always, while you're here, you're a member of the Dewey Beach family. Look out for one another. If you notice a person that may require assistance, confront them, and ask if they need help. Recruit support from business employees or police when necessary.

News Brief

Welcome K9 Odin!

Our newest member of the Dewey Beach Police Department's K9 Unit was sworn in at the November Town Council meeting. A 3-year-old German Shepherd, Odin is trained to track the scent of human odor, such as tracking fleeing or hidden criminals, or finding missing subjects. Odin is also trained in evidence recovery and illegal narcotics.



Upcoming Meetings

December 11th - Charter & Code Committee
December 16th - Finance Committee
December 19th - Board of Adjustment
December 20th - Town Council

MEETING CALENDAR & AGENDAS



Dewey Beach Merch Available at Town Hall

Looking for the perfect stocking stuffer? Swing by Town Hall to say hello and grab your Dewey Beach merch today! Our black Dewey Beach "302" decorative license plates have been a hit this year, and we still have plenty in stock. Also available are coffee mugs, tumblers, baseball hats, flags, tote bags, coolers, and challenge coins (another favorite for police and military members)!

Happy Holidays!

Town administrative offices will be closed December 24th & 25th, and January 1st.





Contact Us

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Website

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