



FEBRUARY 2023

A WAY OF LIFE

Official Newsletter of The Town of Dewey Beach

We're Gearing Up for Summer!

Town staff wish all of our residents and visitors a Happy New Year!

We're officially counting down to summer 2023 here in Dewey Beach (117 days to go, in case you're also keeping track)! But our friends at the Rehoboth-Dewey Chamber of Commerce are making sure we're all still enjoying every day here at the beach. Whether there's sun and sand or snow and ice, there's always something fun happening in Dewey!



Dewey Winter Gala

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Town Manager's Message

As the Winter months slowly pass, and St. Patrick's Day is closer than you think, the Town is now looking for our Summer Team (employees). There isn't a better place to work than Dewey Beach in the summer. The Town needs people who are looking for a challenging, friendly, exciting summer job experience at the beach.

- We have openings for:
- Seasonal Police Program, \$18.00 an hour
 - Parking Ambassadors, \$17.00 an hour
 - Lifeguards, \$16.00 an hour
 - Dog Ambassador, \$16.00 an hour

If you are interested in one of these positions, please [click here](#) to fill out an application. We are also accepting bids for the Town's beach concessions starting summer of 2023. [Click here](#) for more information.

- Updates:
- Beach Replenishment in Dewey Beach is scheduled to start sometime in May and take approximately 2-3 weeks to complete depending on the weather.
 - A building permit has been issued to move the 5G pole on Collins Avenue off the dune line. The Town's wireless consultant, CTC, reviewed the building permit application and the Town's wireless ordinance and standards. After review, they advised to issue the permit.

For more information on town projects, [click here](#).

We are attempting to simplify parking in Dewey Beach. Currently the town has a variety of numbered parking "zones" that have different hourly requirements and different payment methods: ParkMobile, kiosk, coin meters, hang tags, all with different costs. We are actively working on improving this system. Any proposed changes in parking will be referred to the Town Commissioners for their review and necessary approvals.

I'd like to welcome the newly appointed Dewey Beach Police Chief, Constance Speake. Chief Speake has over 26 years of law enforcement experience that includes 21 years with the Laurel Maryland Police Department, from which she retired as a Captain. She was then hired by the Anne Arundel County Sheriff's Office to oversee their Training Academy. During her law enforcement career, she has worked in parking, dispatch, patrol, bike unit, K-9 program, SWAT Team, certified FBI instructor, firearms instructor, patrol supervisor, supervisor of Uniform Division, and supervisor of Criminal Division. Once Chief Speake is settled in, she looks forward to meeting with the citizens, visitors, and business owners of Dewey Beach. The Dewey Beach Civic League has offered to sponsor a meet-and-greet with the new Chief sometime in April, date is still pending.

Enjoy the off-season,

Bill

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, what are you going to do for others?"

-Martin Luther King Jr



The Basics of Beach Replenishment

Dewey Beach is slated for a beach replenishment project beginning in May. Here is what to expect...



Our beaches require periodic replenishment due to erosion. Replenishment is necessary in order to protect our residents, economy, and infrastructure. In the spring of 2022, Dewey and surrounding areas sustained severe damage from a nor'easter. While the beach slowly repaired itself over time - enough to make it accessible to the public - full beach replenishment widens the beach significantly, and helps protect the town from future storm systems. Beach replenishment is a shared project between DNREC and the US Army Corps of Engineers, but the Town of Dewey does our part to keep the public informed throughout the process.

194,000 cubic yards is the estimated amount of sand needed to replenish Dewey Beach from Saulsbury Street to Anchor Way.

Expect heavy machinery to be present on the beach during replenishment, and certain areas closed periodically while crews are at work. While we are hopeful the project will be finished by Memorial Day, the Town has no control over this timeline. A variety of factors can affect how quickly the job is completed. For more information, please visit DNREC's website [here](#). The Town of Dewey will also keep the public updated via our Facebook and webpage.



Dewey Beach Patrol 2023 Tryouts



Become a part of Team DBP!

You'll be committed to ocean safety, maintain a high degree of physical fitness, meet lifelong friends, acquire your Open Water Rescue Certification, Emergency Medical Service Certification, compete in lifeguard competitions, and have a whole lot of fun!

The Dewey Beach Patrol will hold tryouts for lifeguard and EMT positions during the months of March and April. Tryouts will be held at the Dewey Beach Lifesaving Station at 1 Dagsworthy Avenue in Dewey Beach, Delaware.

Tryout Dates

March 19th

March 26th

April 2nd

Tryouts Begin at 11:30am SHARP

Apply Now

at

www.townofdeweybeach.com

Testing Will Include

1 mile beach run

500 meter swim (10 mins or less)

220 yard dash sprint

(2) 25 yard sprint swims

Rescue Simulations & aptitude testing

Strength testing (push ups & pull ups)

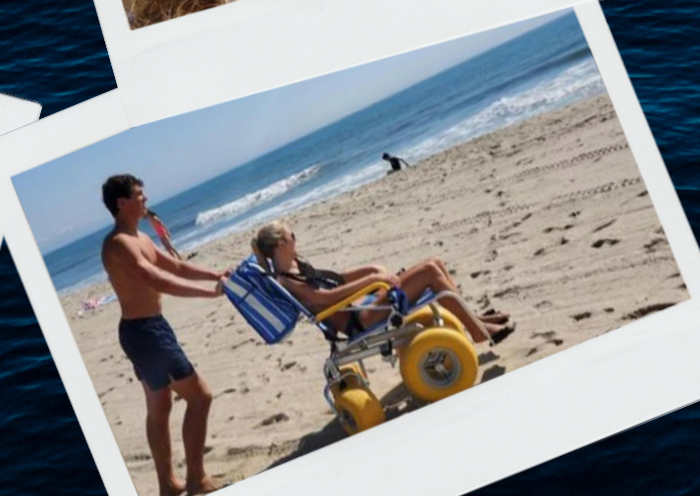


Donate to Dewey Beach

We are always striving to improve the Town of Dewey Beach for our residents and visitors! You can help get involved by donating through our town webpage. We offer many sponsorship opportunities perfect for any individual or organization.

Fully Customized Dune Mat Panels - Memorial Benches & Bike Racks
Beach Wheelchairs - Dewey Beach Patrol - Dewey Beach Police
Beautification/Sunset Park - General Donations

[Donate Here!](#)



Seal Season on the Delaware Coast



DID YOU KNOW

Many visitors to our area are surprised to know that seals are often seen here during the winter months. Colonies of 50-75 seals have been documented here in Delaware, returning each winter from Canada. Not only do they travel here for the slightly warmer waters and variety of fish and shellfish, but the latest evidence shows that they may be mating, and birthing pups right here in Delaware waters. We all share in the responsibility of keeping our winter seal population safe and healthy during their "vacation" to Dewey and surrounding areas.



HOW TO HELP

If you see a seal on the beach, please first contact [MERR Institute](#) by calling or texting (302)228-5029.

- Stay at least 150 feet from the seal, and encourage others to do the same. Seals are on the beach to either rest, avoid a predator (sharks), or because they are sick or hurt. Approaching a seal will likely scare it back into the water that it was avoiding for a reason!
- Seals are protected by federal law. It is illegal to harass, feed, or touch any seal.
- Dewey Beach is a popular place for visitors and residents to exercise their dogs off-leash. It is always a good idea to scan the area prior to letting your dog off-leash to ensure the safety of your pet, and wildlife.
- As cute as a seal may be, they will defend themselves and potentially bite if threatened. Seals also carry various diseases that are transmissible to humans and other animals.

ABOUT MERR INSTITUTE

The Marine Education, Research and Rehabilitation Institute, Inc. is a non-profit stranding response and rehabilitation organization dedicated to the conservation of marine mammals and sea turtles. It is MERR's commitment to contribute to the preservation of these species through research and rescue efforts, and to foster greater understanding and appreciation of these species and their habitat through education and enhanced public awareness. MERR Institute, Inc. is authorized by National Marine Fisheries Service and the State of Delaware to be the official stranding respondents for the Marine Mammals and Sea Turtles of Delaware.

The Town of Dewey Beach encourages donations to MERR. [Click here](#) for more information.



NATIVE SPECIES

There are three types of seals native to the Delaware coast, including Harbor Seals, Gray Seals, and Harp Seals.

Harbor Seals are approximately 6 feet in length and can weigh in at over 200 pounds. They are blue-gray in color, and are often seen on land.

Harp Seals range between 5 and 6 feet long and can weigh up to 300 pounds. They enjoy small fish while visiting here in Delaware before making their way to arctic waters during the summer.

The largest of the three species, the Gray Seal, can grow up to 10 feet long and weigh 800 pounds. As their name suggests, adults are gray in color, but like the Harp Seal, pups are a fluffy white for the first three weeks of their lives.



News Brief

The Town of Dewey Beach is soliciting, via a Request for Proposal, a contractor to provide for the rental of beach equipment and sale of food items on the Town's beaches. For more information, [click here](#).

The licensing year in Dewey Beach begins May 1st! Payment and registration period will open April 1st.

Stay updated on projects happening in our area by visiting the [Town Spotlight](#) on our website.

At the January 13th Commissioners meeting, the council voted on a resolution to have Dewey join the Sussex County Hazard Mitigation Plan. More information [here](#).

At the January 13th Commissioner's meeting, the council voted to increase the Dewey Beach hotel lodging tax from 2% to 2.5% starting April 1st 2023. For more information, [click here](#).

Need to report a problem in town? [Click here to use our online 311 System!](#)



Contact Us

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Website

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