



JANUARY 2023

# A WAY OF LIFE

Official Newsletter of The Town of Dewey Beach

## Happy New Year!

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 (150 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!



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## Town Manager's Message

2022 went by fast in Dewey Beach. We saw COVID restrictions removed as we started to move back to "normal." Our Town Commissioners listened to the public and approved the expansion of outdoor seating in several restaurants in town. I believe the outdoor seating expansion, especially during the Summer and Fall, is a great way for our residents and visitors to enjoy the "Dewey Beach Experience." This year we saw several goals obtained:

- Completion of the Dewey Wave Center Island Safety Project
- Upgraded and installed new street lighting
- Designed new and improved town and police websites
- Awarded a 3-million-dollar grant from the State of Delaware for the new Town Hall and Police Station
- Completion of Phase One of the Stormwater Drains Upgrades and Repairs

For 2023, we will be working from Rodney Ave to Collins Ave on Phase Two of the Stormwater Drains, raising the crown on New Orleans Street with state funding, continuing the work to move the 5G poles off of the dunes, upgrading lighting around town, making repairs to the lifeguard station, continuing to move forward with the new Town Hall and Police Station, and reviewing and possibly modifying commercial business practices on the beach.

I'd like to thank our residents, business owners, visitors, and commissioners for their continued support of the town. I want to especially thank our town employees and police for all of their hard work and dedication in 2022.

*Bill*

*"Every time you tear a leaf off a calendar, you present a new place for new ideas."*





# Good News

*Positivity. Empowerment & Kindness*

On December 16th, Laura Ashby donated 3 automated external defibrillators (AEDs) to the Dewey Beach Police Department. Additionally, she surprised us all with the news that additional funds were raised to purchase 2 more AEDs! Laura's son, Dewey Beach resident Dave Ashby, lost his life to sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) in October of 2019. Since that time, Ms. Ashby has worked tirelessly to raise funds and spread awareness of SCA by creating the inaugural Dave's Dewey Dash 5K Walk/Run. She also donated funds to create a memorial park at the corner of Bellevue & Bayard, complete with a plaque to educate visitors on SCA. We are eternally grateful for Ms. Ashby's work to keep all those in Dewey Beach safe. Please visit the [Sudden Cardiac Arrest Foundation webpage](#) for more information.



*Lt. William Hocker presents Laura Ashby with a Certificate of Appreciation for her donation of AEDs to the DBPD*



*Diane Hanson with the Dewey Beach Civic League visits Town Hall to try out the new microchip scanner*

On December 28th, the Dewey Beach Civic League graciously donated a microchip scanner to the Town of Dewey Beach. Being the most dog-friendly beach on the east coast comes with great responsibility! It is not uncommon that dogs are found without an owner here in Dewey. In the past, local veterinary hospitals have been kind enough to assist in scanning these found pets, so that we may quickly reunite them with their owner. Thanks to the Dewey Beach Civic League, we'll be able to scan found pets right away! Many thanks to the DBCL for thinking of our four-legged visitors! For more information on dog safety in Dewey, see page 7!

# REMOVAL OF TREES IN DEWEY BEACH

## *Understanding the Town Code*



### DO I NEED APPROVAL TO REMOVE A TREE?

- Trees with a circumference of less than 20 inches (measured one foot above ground level) or trees that are not recognized by the Town as a native species may be removed without a permit.
- No tree taller than 25 feet in height (measured from ground level) and greater than 20 inches in circumference (measured one foot above ground level) shall be removed or destroyed without written approval from the Town Code Enforcement Official, based upon the criteria set forth below.
  - The tree is less than 40 inches in circumference, as measured one foot above ground level, and is shorter than 25 feet measured from ground level; or
  - The removal or destruction of the tree is required to protect persons or property from immediate harm; or
  - The tree is located within the footprint of any new construction, including the area necessary to facilitate such construction. All reasonable efforts shall be made during construction or renovation to protect from harm any and all trees otherwise protected under the Town Code. To this end, the Town may identify and enforce protected areas for the protection of trees and roots during construction.
- No tree with a circumference of greater than 40 inches as measured one foot above ground level may be removed without a signed statement from a licensed arborist or the Town Code Enforcement Official stating the reason(s) for removal or destruction of each tree.

Additionally, topping of trees and tree stands shall be prohibited. Pruning for aesthetics or the health of the tree/tree stand is permitted, as is reduction when required directly under utility lines for safety.

When in doubt, contact the [Building Department](#) for more information. Violations of the tree ordinance may result in [fines and penalties](#).

### WHY ARE TREES PROTECTED?

Trees and shrubs add to Dewey's visual appeal, but they are also crucial to maintaining a healthy environment. Native birds rely on trees for both a safe habitat and for the breeding season. The presence of trees has a strong effect on maintaining a healthy population of migratory birds. Trees also serve as noise abatement, and reduce energy costs by cooling structures, and the surrounding environment. Did you know that trees are nature's air conditioners? A single tree can absorb 600,000 Btu of solar radiation and evaporates water into the air, cooling temperatures closer to the ground.

Tree roots help to stabilize shifting soil, which is particularly important for our area. Root systems also act as natural filters. The larger the tree, the harder it tends to work at filtering out pollutants from runoff. Trees can also protect underlying soil and smaller vegetation from heavy rains and wind.

For these reasons, we all share in the goal to protect and maintain Dewey's trees.



### APPROVAL PROCEDURE

Any person seeking permission from the Town to remove or destroy a tree or tree stand, whether in part or in total, must provide the Town Code Enforcement Official with a reasonable sketch of the property showing the location of all trees and structures on the property, including any proposed new construction or additions, and listing the size and species of each tree sought to be removed or destroyed. If any tree or trees to be removed are greater than 40 inches in circumference, a signed statement from a licensed arborist or the Town Code Enforcement Official stating the reason(s) for removal or destruction of each tree must also be provided.





# 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](http://www.townofdeweybeach.com)

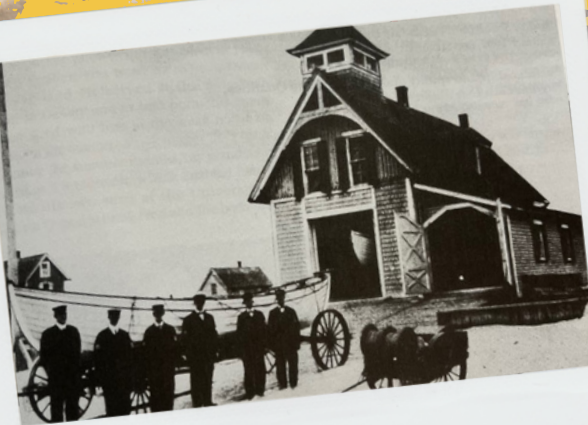
### Testing Will Include

1mile 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)



# We're Collecting Dewey Beach Historical Photos

In preparation for the construction of the new Town Hall building, we are collecting historical photographs for display in our future lobby area. Do you have pieces of Dewey Beach history that you'd love to share with the public? [Click here to access the online dropbox.](#)





# Dewey Beach is Dog Friendly



Knowing what to expect when visiting with your dog helps keep everyone safe and happy!



## PICK UP AFTER YOUR PET

Dog waste isn't just unsightly, it can be dangerous. Dog feces can harbor bacteria and parasites that can spread to other animals and people, and also contaminate sand and water. We provide waste bags at each beach entrance. Please take one before you cross the dune. Keep an eye on your dog, and do not allow him to defecate in the ocean or bay. Pick up waste immediately and dispose of it properly in the trash cans located at each beach entrance.

Did you know that young puppies are particularly susceptible to disease spread by dog feces? Canine Parvovirus is a potentially fatal illness that is common in dogs under 6 months. Puppies can become infected through direct contact with an infected dog, or indirect contact, such as sniffing feces from an infected dog. Healthy adult dogs may even carry parvovirus without you knowing it! Protect others, and pick up after your dog. Those handling young puppies that are not fully vaccinated should be aware of this risk, and make decisions accordingly.

## DEWEY BEACH DOG LICENSES

A town dog license is required for all dogs in Dewey Beach! You can purchase a license ahead of time by visiting our [website](#). Temporary licenses are available for purchase 24/7 from the automated kiosk outside of Town Hall. Of course, you're welcome to visit us during business hours to purchase your license in person!

If you purchase a lifetime license, you'll be given an ID tag that can serve as another form of identification for your dog. It isn't uncommon for us to receive calls throughout the year of dogs found with no ID except their Dewey Beach tag - many are out of town, or even outside of Delaware! We are able to search our database with your dog's unique ID number to find your contact information. Town staff have reunited countless dogs this way.



## LEASH LAWS

While leashes are not mandatory in Dewey Beach, dogs are not permitted to run at large, and must be licensed with the town, and accompanied by their owner at all times. This comes as a surprise to many visitors. For dog lovers, Dewey is a paradise, filled with dogs of all shapes and sizes, many experiencing the joy of the beach for the first time!

Though the lack of a leash law allows dogs to enjoy the beach and ocean to the fullest extent, it also poses certain risks. Know your dog and their limitations. Do not expect that other dogs will be leashed, and be prepared that other dogs may approach yours. If your pup is not dog-tolerant, consider avoiding the beach, especially during busy times.

[Click here](#) for more information about town-specific legislation regarding dogs.

## BEAT THE HEAT

During the summer months, temperatures can soar here in Dewey. During the summer, dogs are permitted on the beach before 9:30am, and after 5:30pm. For dogs who are heat-intolerant, consider visiting the beach early at sunrise, or wait until dusk. All dogs are at risk of heat stroke - [know the signs](#).

Sidewalks and streets can also be blistering hot during the spring and summer. Before starting your walk, touch your hand to the pavement. If it's too hot for you, it's too hot for your dog.

Never leave your dog locked up in the car. Even at just 60 degrees outdoors, the inside of a car can quickly overheat. When in doubt, keep your dog indoors with proper ventilation and access to fresh water.



# News Brief

Town of Dewey Beach administrative offices will be closed on January 2nd and January 16th.

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

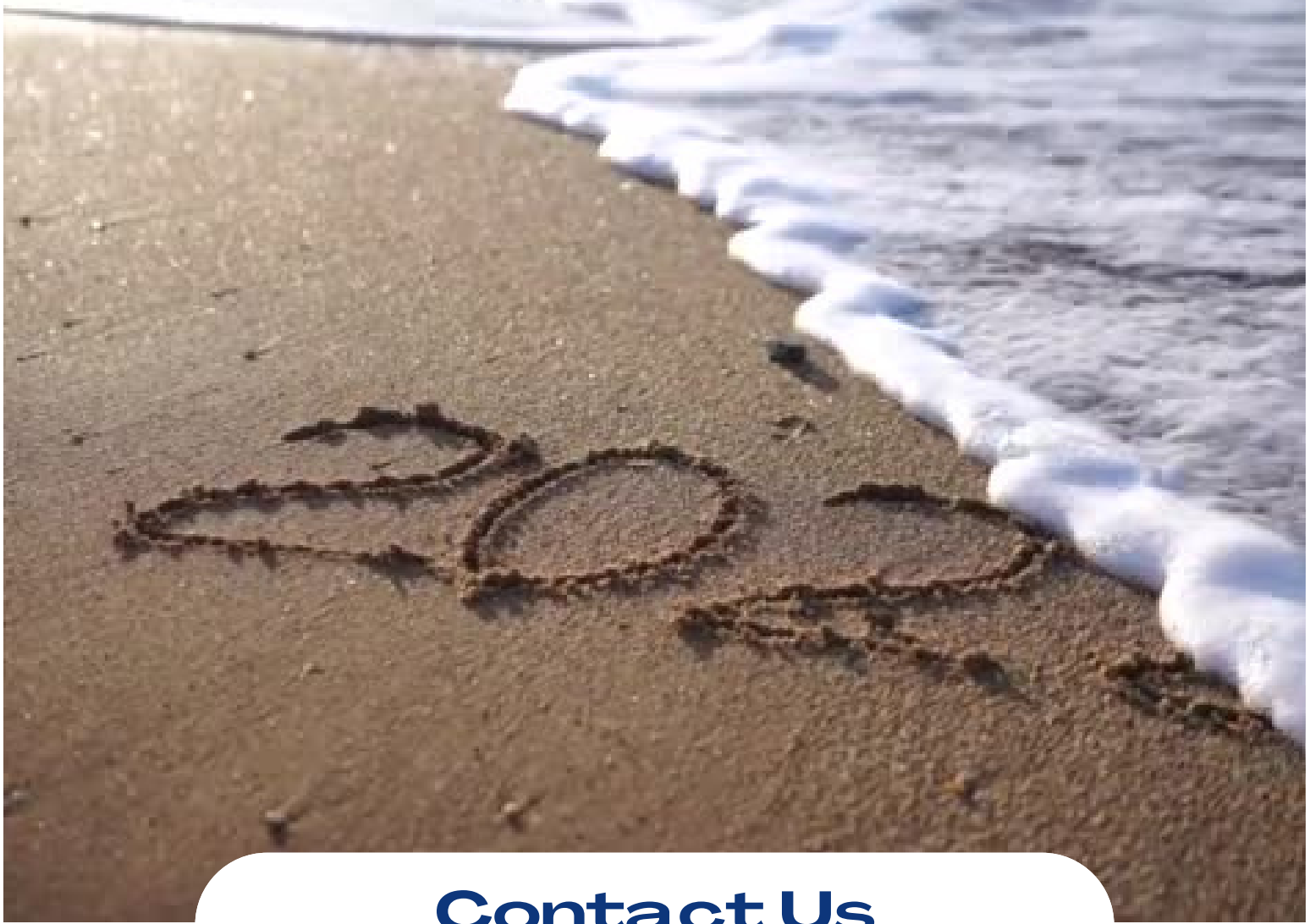
Dewey Beach will host all meetings for the Association of Coastal Towns in 2023. Meetings will be held at the Lifesaving Station. Check the [Town Meeting Calendar](#) for upcoming meetings.

At the January 13th Commissioner's meeting, the council will vote to potentially increase the Dewey Beach hotel lodging tax from 2% to 2.5% starting April 1st 2023. For more information, visit the [Town Meeting Calendar](#).

Our Climate Change Committee continues their research and work on sea level rise. Did you miss the December 9th Resiliency Workshop? [Watch the replay!](#)

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





## Contact Us

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