

JULY 2024



DELAWARE'S FAVORITE PLAYGROUND

Official Newsletter of The Town of Dewey Beach

Let's Vacation!

Let's get the party started! We've been blessed with some outstanding weather here in Dewey. While much of our area is trying to beat the heat, Dewey remains the coolest spot to visit this summer - in more ways than one! We're always welcoming newcomers to the Dewey Beach family, so in this issue, we're providing what you need to know to stay safe, and of course, where to find the fun this month! The highlight of July is of course the fantastic fireworks show over the bay - we hope to see you there!



This Issue

Town Manager's Update
PAGE 02

Well Traveled
PAGE 03

RBVFC Donation Drive
PAGE 04

Dewey Dog Must-Haves
PAGE 05

DBP Community Outreach
PAGE 06

4th of July Fireworks
PAGE 07

...and more!



TOWN MANAGER'S

Update

Summer is here and Dewey is doing what Dewey does best - taking it all in and enjoying the moment! Where else can you enjoy days on our magnificent ocean beach, cool calm waters on the bay, get some exercise playing volleyball, watch a free family movie on the beach on Mondays and enjoy a free bonfire on Wednesday nights? It's all in Dewey!

I'd like to thank Senator Russ Huxtable and Representative Pete Schwartzkopf for their support of the Town's grant request for the funding of the new Town Hall, Police Station, and Paramedic Facility. The Town was granted 1 million dollars in this year's Delaware Bond Bill. Thank you, Pete and Russ! The plans for the new Town Hall, Police Station, and Paramedic Facility have been submitted to the county for review. Once the plans are approved, they will go out for bid.

Safety continues to be our top priority for the Town. With thousands of visitors to Dewey Beach every Summer we are fortunate to have in our Town the Sussex County Paramedics, our Dewey Beach Lifeguards who are all Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) certified, and our police officers. We also have private citizens like Laura Ashby who works with Alex Simchak from Simon's Heart to provide the Town with donated Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs). This year Laura donated 7 AEDs to the police for their cruisers, and to the lifeguards. These life-saving devices can make the difference between life and a terrible tragedy in Dewey Beach. Thank you, Laura and Alex!

The crosswalks that were installed by DelDOT in 2019 have provided an easier and more convenient way for pedestrians to cross Coastal Highway. However, pedestrians must use the crossing beacons and check lanes before crossing. See page 3 for more info! We've made a lot of changes to increase pedestrian safety here in Dewey:

- Lowered the speed limit on Coastal Highway to 25mph
- Added additional pedestrian crosswalk markings on the roadway
- Stenciled "look twice before crossing" on the sidewalks at all crosswalk crossings
- Extended a solid white line 50 feet before the crosswalks to prevent vehicles changing lanes
- Installed crosswalk signs on the center island of Coastal Highway, and the north end of Dewey Beach
- The police have conducted speed and crosswalk enforcement throughout town
- Increased the number of streetlights throughout the town with the help of Delmarva Power & Light
- Purchased two radar speed signs and had them stationed at north and south ends of town
- Painted stop sign markings and increased the size of the stop signs at the intersection of Bayard and Cullen
- Extended the 25mph speed zone from Chicago St to Bedford Ave south of Dewey
- Continue to trim the trees on the center island for enhanced visibility
- Requested the state to lower the flashing yellow crossing beacons increase their visibility (proposed this winter/spring 2025)
- Planned the extension of the center island pedestrian barriers from Swedes St, south to Collins Ave (proposed this winter/spring 2025).

Have a great 4th of July !



-Bill

well traveled



tips for getting around safely in Dewey Beach

crosswalks



Crosswalk beacons line Coastal Highway to assist pedestrians in safely crossing the street. Before attempting to cross, hit the button to activate the beacon. Do not assume that because the beacons are lit, traffic will stop! Check all lanes, including the bike lane (scooters and mopeds may be in this lane) before stepping onto the roadway. Do not attempt to cross a lane until it is clear or traffic has come to a stop. Parents should always hold their child's hand when crossing the street.

Our visitors come from all over the world, and not everyone is accustomed to an area like Dewey where distractions are everywhere. Streets are lined with shops and restaurants to see, everyone is searching for parking, many travelers are stressed or rushed, and in between it all are pedestrians, bikes, skateboards, and scooters zipping in and out of town.

It is crucial that everyone, whether traveling on foot or by vehicle, be mindful of the crosswalks, be aware of the crossing beacons, take your time, and pay attention to your surroundings.

bikes & turn lanes



We love alternative transportation methods here in Dewey! This is why we strive to provide plenty of moped, scooter, and bicycle parking, and encourage use of the DART Beach Bus and Jolly Trolley. Our very own Dewey Beach Police maintain a mountain bike unit, because we know how much easier it is to get around town without a car!

Drivers should be mindful of the bike lane and ensure it is clear prior to making a turn. Be aware that most scooters/mopeds can legally ride in the bike lane as well, and this is common when traffic is heavy.

Many young bike riders are not aware of the dangers of riding the wrong way down the highway. Traffic in Dewey is heavy this time of year, and cars are constantly turning off and on the side streets, not expecting a bicycle to come from the wrong direction. Parents should educate their teens about riding with traffic, and obeying traffic signals just as they would in a car. Ensure your bike is outfitted with reflectors and lights if riding at dusk or nighttime.

arrive alive



This time of year, the "nightlife" spans all day long, and therefore, the Dewey Beach Police Department maintains a heavy presence throughout town. We encourage our Dewey family to enjoy themselves responsibly.

During peak times, Uber and Lyft ride prices will spike. Before you decide to drive, remember the cost.

Cost of late-night Uber ride on July 4th from Dewey to Rehoboth: **\$40-\$60**

Minimum Cost of DUI 1st Offense in Delaware:

- **\$550-\$1,500 fine**, not including court fees and attorney fees.
- Up to 12 months jail time
- 12-24 months license revocation
- Completion of alcohol treatment education program
- \$200 license reinstatement fee
- Risk loss of job, or worse... your life or someone else's.

Protect yourself and others. Make a plan to travel safely this summer.

REHOBOTH BEACH VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

Donation Drive

The Rehoboth Beach Volunteer Fire Company responds annually to over 600 calls from residents and visitors alike, and that number is continuing to increase steadily year after year. Your generous monetary donations enable the RBVFC to continue their mission of providing the best emergency services to you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Please consider donating what you can to help the RBVFC help you, when you need it most..



Many residents and visitors to our area are surprised to learn that when they dial 911 in an emergency, most of the people who respond are volunteers. They leave their families at a moment's notice, day or night, rain or shine, ready to place their lives in harm's way to protect your lives and property. This type of dedication and commitment is tough to come by, but it's one of the reasons the Delaware beaches are such a great place to live, work or vacation. These firefighters are your neighbors and co-workers. They dutifully spend hundreds of hours training each year to be ready to respond at any time to emergencies such as structure fires, motor vehicle accidents, brush fires, water rescues, downed power lines and much, much more.

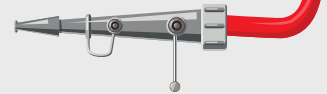


Join the Town of Dewey Beach in supporting our local heroes in their mission to continue providing life-saving service to our area. From July 1st - September 9th, the Town of Dewey Beach will match donations up to a grand total of **\$15,000!**

The Rehoboth Beach Volunteer Fire Company is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and donations made by check are 100% tax deductible.

Donations are accepted by check payable to the Rehoboth Beach Volunteer Fire Company. Please send checks to Dewey Beach Town Hall at 105 Rodney Ave, Dewey Beach, DE 19971.

*Donations may also be made on our [website](#).



*In many cases, online donations submitted to an organization that is not a 501(c)(3) can not be deducted on taxes (The Town of Dewey Beach is not a registered 501(c)(3)). We can provide a receipt for you to verify your donation is for the Rehoboth Beach Volunteer Fire Company, but can not guarantee this will be accepted as a tax deduction. Please check with your tax accountant prior to making an online donation if you wish to use your donation as a tax deduction, or, submit your donation by check made payable to Rehoboth Beach Volunteer Fire Company.





DEWEY DOG MUST-HAVES



Bringing your dog to the beach for the first time? Don't forget these crucial items! Screenshot or print the emergency info for quick reference!

EMERGENCY VETERINARIANS

Never arrive at a vet hospital unannounced with an emergency - a doctor may not be available right away, and this could waste precious time. CALL FIRST to ensure availability and to allow the staff to prepare for your arrival.

Rehoboth Beach Animal Hospital

Established patients only
(302) 227-2009

Savannah Animal Hospital

Established patients only
(302) 645-8757

Precious Paws Animal Hospital

Emergency service during daytime business hours
118 Atlantic Ave., #201, Ocean View, DE 19970
(302) 539-2273
Approx 20 minutes south of Dewey Beach

Home Care Vet of Delaware

Mobile veterinarian, availability will vary
(302) 493-3010

Pets ER

Open nights, weekends, and holidays only
2402 Punkin Court, Salisbury, MD 21804
(410) 543-8400
Approx 1 hour southwest of Dewey Beach

Delmarva Animal Emergency Center

Open nights, weekends, and holidays only
1482 E. Lebanon Rd., Dover, DE 19901
(302) 697-0850
Approx 1 hour north of Dewey Beach

Blue Pearl Pet Hospital - Christiana

Open 24/7
106 Geoffrey Dr., Newark, DE 19713
(302) 322-6933
Approx 1.5 hours north of Dewey Beach

LEASH & COLLAR

While dogs aren't required to be on a leash on the beaches in Dewey, it is highly recommended to bring some form of restraint with you. A leash will come in handy if you must remove your dog from a situation quickly! It is also a good idea to keep a collar on your dog with proper identification tags.

WASTE BAGS

Waste bags are provided at stations throughout town, including at beach entrances. It's a great idea to bring your own bags, but please take one before entering the beach if needed! Never allow your dog to defecate in the ocean or bay, and always pick up after your dog. [Click here](#) for more information.

DEWEY DOG LICENSE

All dogs in Dewey Beach must have a town dog license. This requirement is separate from a state license, id tag, or rabies tag.

We offer many options for your convenience! Purchase a temporary license for 3 days or 8 days if you're only in town for a brief stay.

If you plan to visit Dewey regularly, purchase a lifetime license. We also offer lifetime limited edition tags with the Dewey Beach town seal!

Dog licenses are [available online](#), at the kiosk outside of Town Hall, or in person at Town Hall during regular business hours.





Beyond

THE STANDS

DBP COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMS

JUNIOR LIFEGUARD PROGRAM

Do you know a child or teen interested in becoming a lifeguard? The DBP Junior Lifeguard Program is perfect for kids who love the beach, physical activity, helping others, and learning more about our coastal environment.

This fun and educational program is geared towards ages 6 - 16. Participants are provided with instruction from the Dewey Beach Lifeguard Captain, as well as veteran members of the patrol and EMS in lifesaving history, lifeguard qualification and training, health, fitness, and safety, the marine environment, water surveillance, rescue equipment, weather hazards, the surf beach, and more!

Upon completion of the program, participants receive official membership in the USLA. Official Dewey Beach Patrol shorts and logo t-shirts are provided. Participants must meet certain criteria outlined on our website. [Click here](#) for more information and registration!

YOUTH RECREATION

Join the local heroes of the DBP for Youth Recreation every evening on the beach at Dagsworthy Avenue!

A variety of equipment and activities will be provided, including but not limited to t-ball, whiffle ball, rubber horseshoes, beanbag toss, ring toss, tetherball, STX lacrosse (no contact), rubber footballs, soccer, basketball and volleyball.

The Dewey Beach Lifeguards will provide supervision of the recreation areas, basic skill instruction as needed or requested, and officiating of team activities.

This is a great opportunity to hang out with the DBP, enjoy the beach, make new friends, and learn new skills. No registration required, and participation is free! [Click here](#) for more information!

*The fun begins
July 2nd!*

4TH OF JULY FIREWORKS



PRO TIPS

Parking in town is exceptionally difficult on July 4th! Arrive early if you are driving in. Consider using the [DART Beach Bus](#) or the [Jolly Trolley](#) to avoid having to park.

Expect heavy traffic at dusk and continuing after the fireworks show has concluded. Arrive early, and don't try to rush out of town afterwards! Enjoy the local restaurants and shops before and after the show.

Secure your pets in a safe place indoors, and close windows to dampen the noise. Animals may panic from the sound of fireworks.

WHO

Highway One Companies will once again sponsor the Dewey Beach fireworks spectacular! Thank you to Highway One!

The bayside 4th of July fireworks show has proven to be one of the best in our area every year! This family-friendly event is a must-see!

WHAT

WHEN Thursday, July 4th at 9:00pm

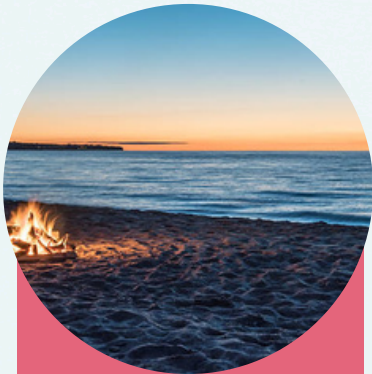
Fireworks will be set off from a barge on the bay in the vicinity of McKinley Ave. The show is visible in all of Dewey Beach!

WHERE



Where the Fun Never Ends!

DEWEY BEACH HOSTS A VARIETY OF EVENTS ALL YEAR LONG!



Book a Bonfire

We offer booking for private bonfires all year long, and anytime is the perfect time to enjoy a fire by the sea!

[READ MORE](#) 



Movies on the Beach

The Monday Movies on the Beach schedule is here!

Which movie are you most excited to see?

[READ MORE](#) 



Local Events

The Rehoboth-Dewey Chamber of Commerce will keep you updated on all area events! Mark your calendars for holiday happenings!

[READ MORE](#) 



DBP Events

Thank you Dewey Business Partnership for providing great events right here in Dewey! Next up are the Canoe Races on July 16th!

[READ MORE](#) 

TOWN ELECTION

SEPTEMBER 21, 2024

Be Ready to Vote This Summer!

STEP 1 - REGISTER TO VOTE

Make sure you're registered to vote by checking the [registered voter list](#) posted on the town website. This list is updated periodically. Voter registration is open all year long, closing only during the 30 days prior to the election. If you are already registered, you do not need to register again. Those who wish to register to vote can fill out the voter registration form [here](#). Only individuals who are at least 18 years of age and either bonafide residents, property owners, tenants, or trustees may register to vote. Applicants must meet the criteria outlined in the [Town Charter](#).

STEP 2 - MEET THE COUNCIL

Do you know your local leaders? Read more about the Dewey Beach Town Commissioners [here](#). Our elected officials are devoted individuals with a passion for public service. The best way to get to know your local government officials is to attend or watch the monthly Town Council meetings. View the town meeting calendar on the homepage of our [website](#) for upcoming meetings and topics up for discussion. Watch live meetings, or view the archive on our [YouTube channel](#).

STEP 4 - MEET THE CANDIDATES

Eligible individuals who wish to file as a candidate for the 2024 election should complete the [form](#) on our website.

Once filings are received, candidates up for election will be posted on our website. Check back often! Registration continues through August 22nd!

STEP 3 - STAY IN THE KNOW

Keep an eye on the [2024 Election Calendar](#) for important dates! We'll also post election news on our [website](#).

August 22nd: Candidate filing and voter registration deadline.

August 23rd: Notice of Election*

August 26th: Absentee voting begins! Cast your vote at Town Hall during business hours, or [request a ballot by mail](#).

September 20th: Absentee voting closes at noon.

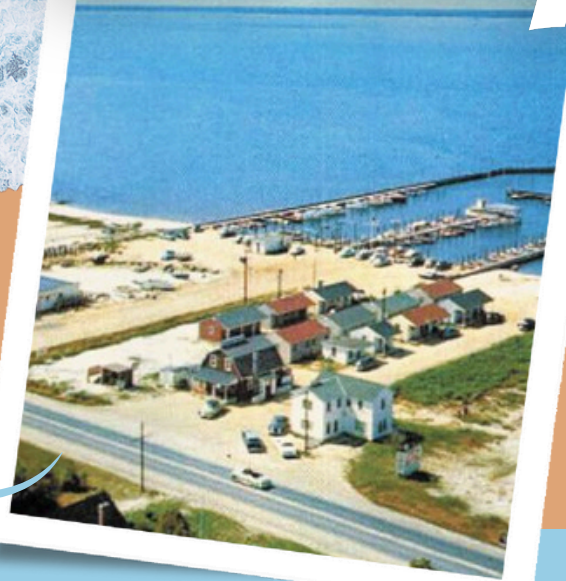
September 21st: Election Day! Cast your vote at the Dewey Beach Lifesaving Station between 10:00am and 6:00pm.

**Two seats are up for election. If no more than two candidates file, there will be no commissioner election for 2024.*

News Brief

Happy Birthday Dewey Beach!

July 4, 1981, the governor signed off on the incorporation of Dewey Beach! Our first Mayor Bruce Vavala was sworn in by then Town Attorney Bill Wright at a bonfire on the beach. The rest is Dewey Beach history !



Upcoming Meetings

- July 11th - Finance Committee
- July 13th - Climate Change Committee
- July 18th - Infrastructure Committee
- July 19th - Town Council

MEETING CALENDAR & AGENDAS



Dewey Beach Merch Restocked!

Our Dewey Beach official town flags are back by popular demand! Stop in to Town Hall to say hello and browse our selection of products that feature the town seal. Your purchase helps support the town to serve you! We raise funds for a variety of endeavors, including:

- Construction of a new Town Hall & Police Station
- Beach Patrol Competition Teams
- Annual Rehoboth Beach Fire Company Donation
- Beach Wheelchairs
- Dune Mats
- Bike Racks & Benches





Contact Us

Dewey Beach Town Hall
105 Rodney Ave
Dewey Beach, DE 19971
(302) 227-6363

Visit the Town
Website

View the Staff
Directory

Follow us on
Facebook