



JUNE 2023

DELAWARE'S FAVORITE PLAYGROUND

Official Newsletter of The Town of Dewey Beach

Summer is Calling!

The warm weather is finally here, and we're soaking up the sun here in Dewey! We welcomed record numbers of visitors over Memorial Day Weekend! Each year we're excited to see old friends and new make their way to town for a fresh season of sun, fun, and memories. This month, we're shining the light on how to make the most of your summer at the beach. For this issue, we even reached out to a few "local experts" to share their tips, tricks, and ideas with you.

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Town Manager's *Update*

Dewey Beach has survived another Memorial Day weekend with some of the largest crowds since I arrived two years ago. The weekend wasn't without its challenges - fights, thefts, large crowds loitering, rough surf, and ongoing beach replenishment. However, the police department lead by Chief Speake and our lifeguards lead by Captain Fritchman did an outstanding job! I would ask for all business owners' assistance and cooperation in addressing trash in front of your establishments, over-serving of alcohol, and gathering of large crowds loitering in private parking lots. The town needs your help addressing these public safety and trash issues.

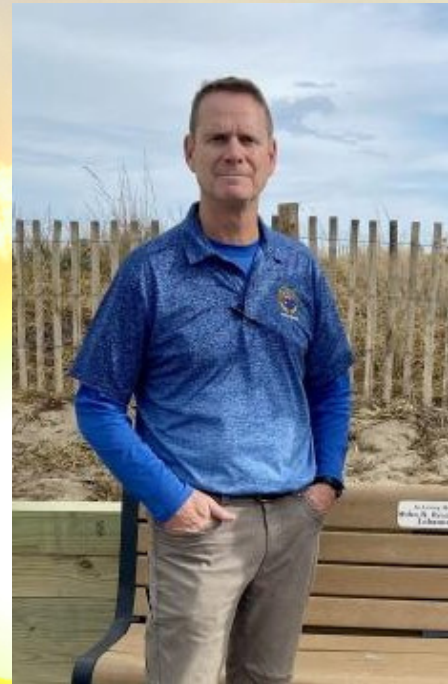
Now for some updates:

- Beach replenishment should be completed from Read Ave to Saulsbury Street by Friday the 9th pending good weather
- A dune mat landing (10' x 12') has been placed on Van Dyke Ave oceanside to assist physically challenged individuals
- Paving has been completed on both Hayden and New Orleans Streets
- Two drain swales have been installed on the corners of New Orleans and Bayard Avenue to help with storm drainage issues
- Scooter/moped parking has been installed on the corner of Bellevue Street and Coastal Highway southbound near Jimmy's Grill
- Pot holes/low areas in the public right-of-way have been addressed with millings
- Dune crossing mats have been installed.
- The town continues to work with engineers from Remington and Vernick to update and address the town's storm water pipes, drains, and outfalls.

I'd like to thank the Mayor, Commissioners, and the public for their continued support of the new town hall and police station. We hope to break ground sometime this fall or early winter.

I'm looking forward to warmer weather and a great Summer!

Bill Zolper



a beach for everyone



Beach Access Mats

Beach access, or dune mats are provided at each dune crossing, making it easier for visitors of all ages and abilities to access the beach. Also check out our newly installed landing at the Van Dyke beach entrance. This enables anyone to see the beach and ocean without the need to traverse the entire dune.



Rent a Beach Wheelchair

Beach wheelchairs are available for rent during the summer season at no cost. Provide the dates of your stay and street location, and the Beach Patrol will have a chair available at the lifeguard stand each morning for you to pick up. Beach wheelchairs can only be used on the sand, so please do not remove the chairs from the beach. [Click here](#) to reserve a beach wheelchair!

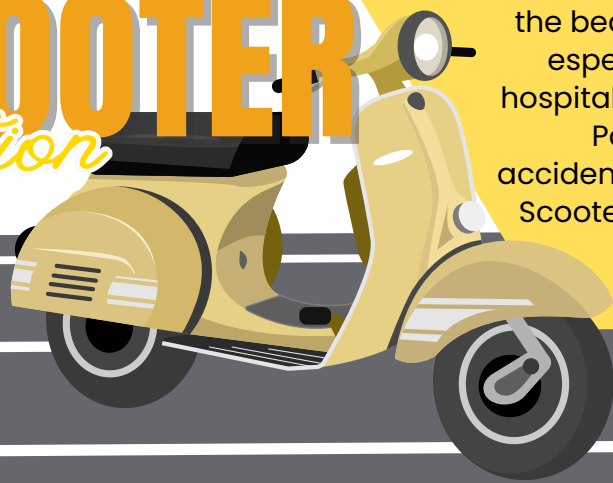
How You Can Help

Participate in our Adopt-a-Dune program by designing a beach mat panel! [Click here](#) for more information.

We are also always accepting donations to help purchase and maintain our beach wheelchairs. Each year, the need for wheelchairs rises. Our goal is to always have a chair for anyone who may need one. Each [TerraWheels wheelchair](#) has a purchase price of \$2,650. We greatly appreciate donations of any amount. [Click here](#) for more information.



SCOOTER *Nation*



Motorized scooters are a favorite form of transportation around the beach community. They're a quick, efficient way to travel, especially for locals! Many of the riders on the road are our hospitality industry workers. Some are members of our Beach Patrol too! However, every year our area is plagued with accidents involving scooters. We reached out to Dewey Beach Scooter Nation, an independent locals group, for their tips on how to stay safe, and protect others, on the roadways.

Scooter Riders

While most local scooter riders have gained experience over time, some may not be familiar with the Town of Dewey specifically. Additionally, each season, a number of tourists will rent scooters to ride while in town. Others are local workers who spend summers in Dewey, and aren't necessarily as familiar with the proper precautions to take while riding.

It is legal for many scooters to ride on the shoulder/in the bus lane (especially in higher speed areas where they can not keep up with the flow of traffic), but this isn't always the safest option. Ride with traffic whenever possible, and observe the speed limit.

Always assume drivers can *not* see you. When approaching an intersection, slow down and make eye contact with drivers waiting to turn left. Never ride in the blind spot of a vehicle.

Know the roadways, especially through the "Forgotten Mile" (area between Dewey Beach and Rehoboth Beach) and on Route 1 through Rehoboth. Know the areas where cars can cross the highway without a traffic signal. These areas are where many accidents happen.

Wear a helmet, and consider wearing clothing colors that are highly visible, especially if traveling at night. Some riders add a bike flag or additional lighting/reflectors to their scooter.

Drivers

Most scooters can legally ride on the shoulder/in the bus lane. Many accidents happen when drivers attempt to make a right turn without first making sure the shoulder is clear. Signal early, check blind spots, and never make a sudden turn.

When headed north out of Dewey, you can bear right towards King Charles Ave/Route 1A to get to downtown Rehoboth. Traffic can also bear left to continue on Coastal Highway. Be extremely cautious at this fork in the roadway. Check for scooters in the bike lane that may be continuing on Coastal Highway before you attempt to bear right.

Be extra cautious when traffic is gridlocked through the Delaware beach area. Cars stopped in all lanes of the roadway reduces visibility for drivers and scooter riders. This is prime time for scooters to be riding on the shoulder. Do not rush to cross an intersection or make a left turn. Go slowly and ensure the shoulder is clear before proceeding.

Know that scooters are a big part of the "culture" here in Dewey! Respect our riders, and keep an eye out for them. Most scooter owners are very aware of the risks, and therefore ride cautiously and respectfully.

LBFTS Accidents

After a scooter or motorcycle accident, car drivers will often exclaim, "they came out of nowhere." This could be due to a theory called inattentional blindness.

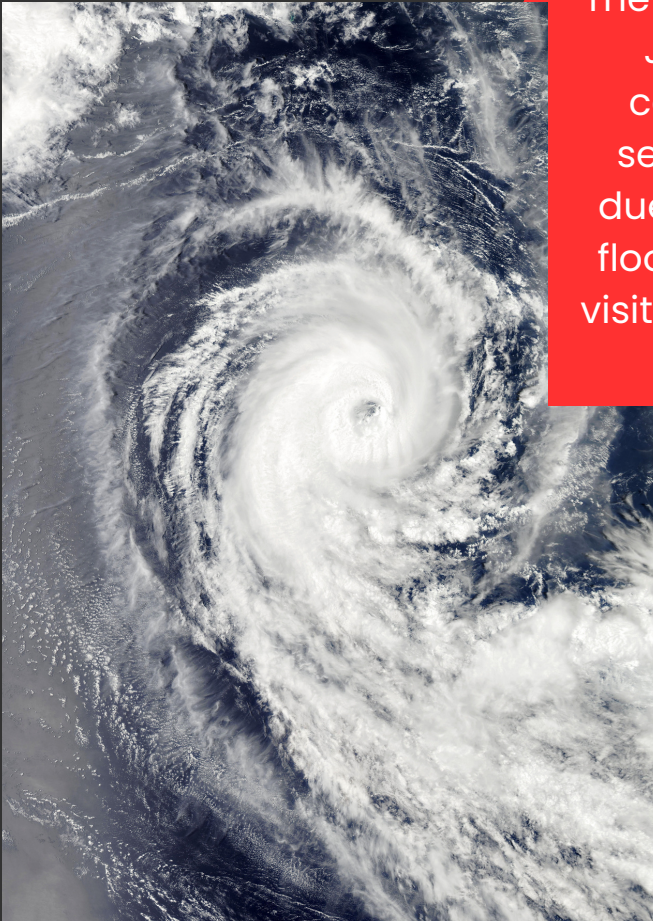
While driving, our minds are on sensory overload, constantly scanning for potential threats. We can't process all of this information at once, so the brain will essentially decide what information to "keep," and what to throw away. On a busy street, the larger, louder, and faster vehicles will be noticed immediately by your average driver. However, studies show that drivers are *less* likely to notice scooters, mopeds and motorcycles, even during the day in good weather.

These types of accidents are deemed "LBFTS" - where the car driver Looked, But Failed to See the scooter or motorcycle. To the driver, "they came out of nowhere."

Traffic at the Delaware beaches becomes more congested each summer. Drivers are often frustrated, preoccupied, and on mental overload trying to process a busy area that is unfamiliar to them. This is how LBFTS accidents occur.

It is crucial for drivers to LOOK TWICE before making turns or changing lanes. Scooter riders must always assume that drivers do not see them, and drive defensively.

*Thank you to Dewey Beach Scooter Nation
for your contributions. Stay safe this summer!*



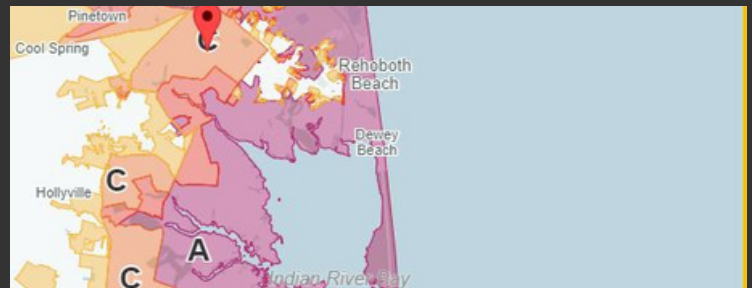
The Atlantic hurricane season extends from June 1st through November 30th. In a coastal community, hurricanes pose a severe threat to life and property. This is due to storm surge that can result in flash flooding. It is important that residents and visitors are aware of what to do in the event of an emergency.

Preparation is Key

As you can see in the map below, all of Dewey Beach lies in the "A" Evacuation Zone. Remember this zone designation. Property owners who rent their homes should consider providing this information in the rental unit, as well as instruction from PrepareDE.org. This website is a perfect resource to help everyone prepare for an emergency event. Preparation is key. Have an [emergency kit](#) ready before disaster strikes. [Make a plan](#) that takes into consideration children, pets, and seniors or those with special needs. Dewey Beach staff continues to do our best to notify the public of severe weather or other emergencies. Visit our [Hurricane Safety](#) page, and be sure to [subscribe](#) to receive alerts. We'll also utilize [social media](#) for important updates.

Evacuation Zones

The first step to preparing for an emergency is to sign up for alerts through the [Delaware Emergency Notification System](#). Registering your phone allows DENS to geocode your phone number, making sure you'll receive emergency alerts affecting your location at any given time. The second step is to [know your zone](#). It's important to know your Evacuation Zone before a disaster strikes. Your zone includes specific evacuation routes for your area and proper guidance in the event of an emergency. Evacuating in a planned method by zone reduces unnecessary evacuation travel, roadway congestion and overcrowding, and allows for quicker, safer movement for everyone at risk during emergencies and disasters. Familiarizing yourself with your zone in advance provides time-saving opportunities for planning and preparation for you, your family and those closest to you.



ASK A LOCAL



We asked Delaware beach residents, what would you like visitors to know before they come to Dewey Beach? Here they are... your first steps to livin' like a local.

Welcome to the Dew! Our businesses are working hard to take care of you, but please be patient with them, and polite. They are truly doing the best they can, but are short staffed like everywhere else...and please put down your phones while driving!!!

David C.

Sunrise to Sunset Challenge - get the family to watch the sunrise beachside and then play in the ocean and bay, and that evening watch the sunset from the bayside. Enjoy the two block wide magic of Dewey! Take photos and tag Town of Dewey Beach on Facebook!

Alex H.

Watch for scooters!

Katie G.

Please stay off the dunes, and pick up after your dogs!

Dan L.

Telltale sign of a local... they're picking up trash on the beach left behind by others. Bring a plastic bag with you and help us keep the beach clean.

Megan M.

If it rains, there's still plenty of things to do... This includes visiting one of the many fabulous restaurants in town for a fun brunch, catching a movie at the nostalgic Movies at Midway, visiting the ever popular outlet shopping or borrowing a book from Dewey's two Little Free Libraries!

Alex H.

Be patient :-)

Helen B.

Don't park in private lots or driveways!

Joan C.

Walk the beach early for the best seashell finds, and come back at sunset for the best chance to see dolphins.

Jimmy Y.

Be kind - to your servers, bartenders, hotel workers, Uber and bus drivers, and retail workers. We are here to serve, but we're people too! Oh, and be kind to other visitors!

Kristin H.

"Why is it that scuba divers and surfers are some of the strongest advocates of ocean conservation? Because they've spent time in and around the ocean, and they've personally seen the beauty, the fragility, and even the degradation of our planet's blue heart."
-Sylvia Earle

trash talk



Sudden high winds are common in our area. Trash that isn't disposed of properly can quickly make it's way into the ocean or bay during a "surprise" storm event. Make sure all trash is put in a proper receptacle. Household trash should not be placed in public cans. If you notice an overflowing trash can, notify Town Hall [here](#). Don't add more trash to an overflowing can. If a storm is making it's way through, secure residential cans. Visitors staying in rental homes, please assist with this effort as best you can.



Most of us are aware that trash in waterways severely harms marine life. Pollution also poses a threat to humans. Plastics contain chemicals that leach into ocean water that can be dangerous on their own. Certain chemicals also lead to increased nitrates and phosphates in water, resulting in harmful algal blooms that can cause severe illness to those swimming or playing in affected water. Remember that waterways are all connected - protect rivers, lakes, and streams too!

Click Here for
GFL
Dewey's Trash
Collection
Provider



Educate children about the importance of keeping the town clean. Going for a walk on the beach? Bring a trash bag with you, and pick up litter if you see it. Maintaining the cleanliness of the beach is everyone's responsibility. When you visit with us, you're a member of the Dewey Beach family! Join us in protecting local wildlife, plant life, and each other. Together, we can keep Dewey safe and beautiful for everyone. Visit [Delaware Sea Grant](#) for more information on how to help.

**Town Tagline
Submission
Winner**

Katy Werner

The Dewey Beach Marketing Committee answered the call to run a campaign in search of an official tagline for Dewey Beach. A tagline contest was initiated, and we received over 1,000 submissions from the public. At the May Town Council Meeting, the official tagline was chosen! Dewey Beach is "Delaware's Favorite Playground!"

Submissions from the runners up will also be used in future marketing campaigns.

Thank you to everyone who submitted a tagline!



Runners Up

Fun Since '81

John Getty

Where Fun Meets Sun

Dan Hirschfeld

Paradise Mile

Karen Glooch

The Mile That Lasts Forever

Bryan Whitten

Where Fun Begins

DEWEY BEACH HOSTS A VARIETY OF EVENTS ALL SEASON LONG!



Movies on The Beach

Every Monday at 8:30pm from June 19th through August 21st on the Beach at Dagsworthy Avenue

[READ MORE](#) 



Community Beach Bonfires

Every Wednesday at 7:00pm from June 21st through August 23rd on the Beach at Dagsworthy Avenue

[READ MORE](#) 



Special Events

New events are always being added to the lineup! Check to see what's happening during your stay in Dewey!

[READ MORE](#) 

TOWN ELECTION

SEPTEMBER 23, 2023

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 2023 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 24th!

STEP 3 - STAY IN THE KNOW

Keep an eye on the [2023 Election Calendar](#) for important dates! We'll also post election news on our [website](#).

August 24th: Candidate filing and voter registration deadline

August 25th: Notice of Election*

August 28th: Absentee voting begins! Cast your vote at Town Hall during business hours, or [request a ballot by mail](#)

September 22nd: Absentee voting closes at noon

September 23rd: Election Day! Cast your vote at the Dewey Beach Lifesaving Station between 10:00am and 6:00pm.

*Three seats are up for election. If no more than three candidates file, there will be no election for 2023.

DEWEY BEACH PATROL

Community Outreach



Junior Lifeguard Program

Tuesdays & Thursdays starting July 6th at 10:30am

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

Every evening starting July 6th at 5:15pm

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!



All beach activities are weather-dependent

news brief

Quick Update...
what you need to know this month!



JUNETEENTH

A CELEBRATION OF FREEDOM

The Town of Dewey Beach recognizes Juneteenth on Monday, June 19th. Town administrative offices will be open for limited business hours from 10:00a - 2:00p. For more information on Juneteenth and celebrations being held throughout the state, visit the [Delaware Juneteenth Association's website](#).

HOUSE BILL 168

Are you aware of House Bill 168 regarding a tax increase for short-term rentals? Read more about the bill [here](#).

UPCOMING MEETINGS

June 6th - Marketing Committee
June 16th - Town Council
June 26th - Board of Adjustment

Stay in-the-know! Keep an eye on the town meeting [calendar](#). New meetings can be added at any time. Watch live or past meetings on our [YouTube channel](#).

We encourage the public to participate and voice their opinion at any of our Town Council or committee meetings.

BUILDING PERMIT REMINDER

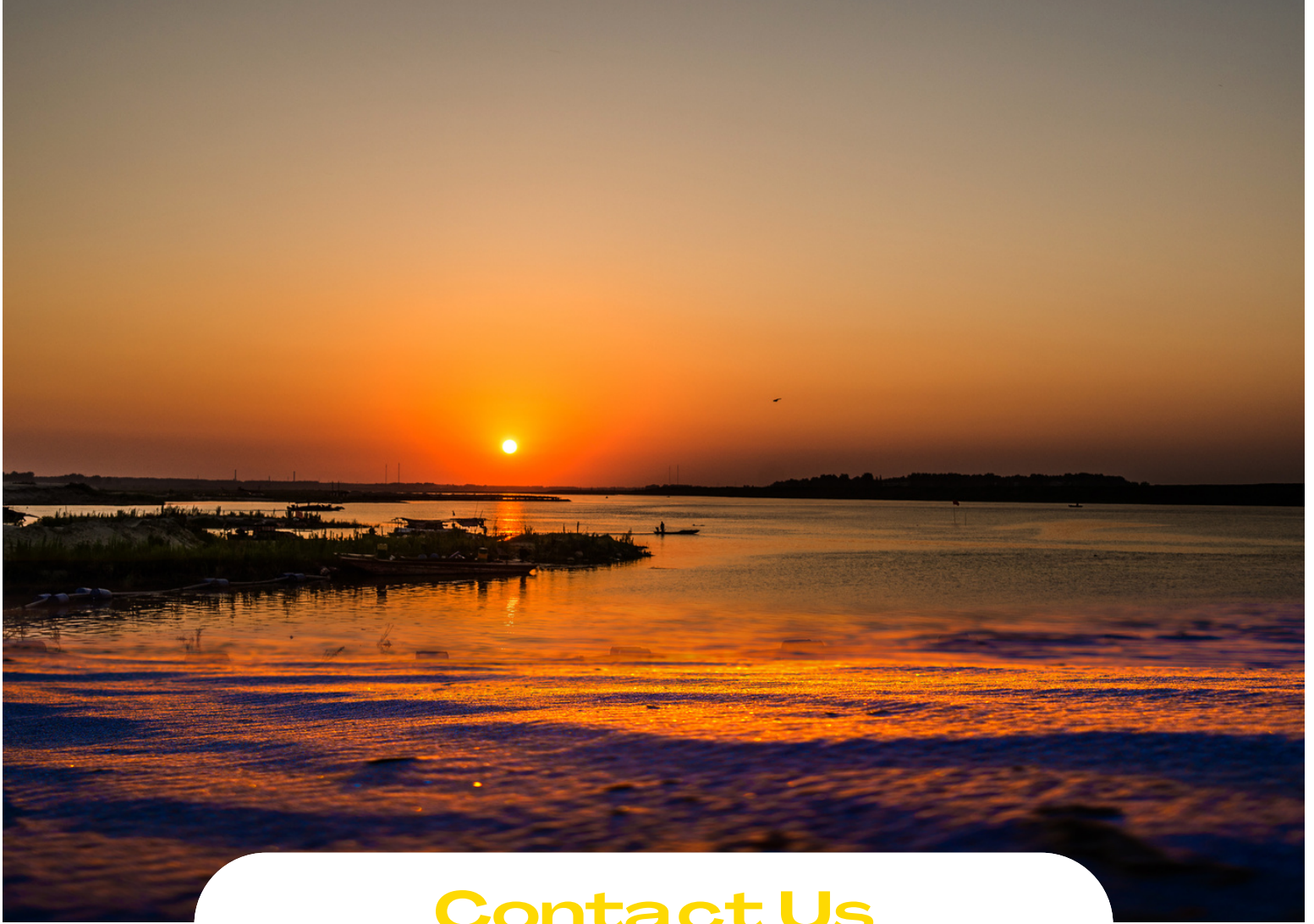
Property owners or contractors must obtain a building permit before doing any work on a property. Contractors must also have a valid Dewey Beach business license. Code enforcement officials will place stop work orders on any jobs that do not have a proper permit on file with the town, and displayed at the job site.

Make sure you're following all construction rules. Our [Building Department](#) page is the perfect resource for any questions you may have prior to starting a project.

RENTAL PROPERTY REMINDER

Are you renting your property this summer? Be aware of the rules regarding a [disorderly dwelling](#) outlined in the Town Code. Consider posting this information in your rental unit.

The Dewey Beach Police are looking out for you and your neighbors! Public safety is paramount. Help us by educating your renters on this ordinance.



Contact Us

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Website

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