



MARCH 2023

A WAY OF LIFE

Official Newsletter of The Town of Dewey Beach

We're Gearing Up for Summer!

We're officially counting down to summer 2023 here in Dewey Beach (86 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!

Stay tuned for next month's newsletter, where we'll give you all of the updates you need to know for Summer in Dewey 2023!



March marks the kickoff of selecting the 2023 DBP

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Town Manager's Update

by Bill Zolper

As we approach Spring, we continue to move the Town in the right direction. Here is the latest:

Beach Replenishment should begin on or about April 20th in Dewey Beach depending on the weather and how quickly work is completed in Rehoboth. Work will take approximately 12 days, starting on Read Avenue and continue north to Salisbury Street, then work south to Collins Avenue. All equipment will enter and exit the beach from Chicago Street. Please stay clear of the work areas. There will be heavy equipment moving on the beach both day and night until the work is completed. I will update as necessary in next month's newsletter.

We had an initial meeting with DelDot to discuss the **2024 Dewey Beach Pedestrian Improvement Safety Project** based on a 2019 assessment. Some of the items discussed which could possibly start in 2024 are to extend the "Dewey Wave" center island project both north and south, finish the curb bump outs, improve the sidewalks along RT 1, widen the sidewalks around telephone poles, fix driveways that are no longer in use, and assessing options to slow down traffic. This work could take place from 2024 to 2028 with as much as \$7 million dollars available.

After review and consultation with CTC, our wireless consultant, the Town has issued permits to Verizon to move the **5G poles** off the dunes located on Collins Avenue and Cullen Street. Work to move the poles has not been scheduled. We expect to issue a third permit to move the 5G pole off the dune on Rodney Ave in the near future.

Once a date is scheduled for the **paving on New Orleans Street Bayside**, the Town will mail and email notices to property owners. The work should take 2 to 3 days from start to finish. Once completed, the crown of the street will be raised by 2" in an effort to move the water to the storm drains located at the intersection of New Orleans and Bayard Ave. We will also install two swales at that intersection to move the water to the storm drains.

The commissioners approved the following **infrastructure projects** which will start this spring: Repairing the wall at the Bayard Ave Pump Station, repair a sink hole on Bellevue Street Bayside, remove Read Ave storm water flaps on the bayside, and map and video all storm drain pipes from Rodney Ave to Collins Ave. All work will be done in the spring and fall - not during the summer.

The cost of services for the Town has increased. The Town has worked with the Budget and Finance Committee in an effort to review possible increases in revenue to meet our service needs. One of those needs is hiring qualified town employees, including police. On average, our employees are paid approximately \$4,000 to \$7,000 less than Rehoboth, Lewes, and Bethany Beach employees. Our employees work hard and stay very busy, with the Town's summer population swelling to over 20,000, coupled with an "active nightlife". One of the revenue increases being considered are the business license fees, which have not been raised since 2012. All of the businesses rely on Town services which include police, maintenance, lifeguards, and administrative employees to operate the Town in a safe and orderly manner. We need to be competitive with our surrounding beach towns and pay our employees a fair wage, which is included in this year's proposed budget.

BEACH TRASH COLLECTION

The Town has maintained a contract with a beach concessions provider for many years. This concessionaire was also responsible for the trash and recycling collection from the receptacles provided on the beach.

The Town's contract with Lynam's Beach Concessions expired, therefore, a request for proposals was posted for this contract.

At the close of the bidding process, we had no bids from any vendor that could meet the Town's requirements, which included trash collection.* Therefore, I am exploring all options, which include the following:

- Residential trash provider, GFL provides the beach trash collection. I am currently awaiting an estimate from GFL.
- Consider an alternate company for beach trash collection service - the RFP was posted on March 1st to explore this option.
- The Town hires two seasonal employees, obtains a truck and flatbed trailer, and handles this service ourselves.

If all of the above options are unavailable (no bids are submitted, or, it is found the Town can not afford the cost of this service), we will need to move trashcans off of the beach, and instead place cans in wooden containers at the end of each street (on the west side of the dune). We would obtain an estimate from GFL to handle collection of these receptacles. **This is not an option we want**, but one we must prepare for.

*Please note, we understand the need for a beach concessions provider. Therefore, after the first RFP for this contract was unsuccessful, a second RFP was posted for a beach concessions provider, without the requirement of handling trash. We received one bid for this contract. We will be interviewing that applicant this week to assess if they can meet the town's standards and requirements.

THANK YOU

I'd like to extend my sincere gratitude to Lieutenant Billy Hocker and LaToya Weatherly for their service and dedication of over 20 years to Dewey Beach. Thank you!

An Update on Winter Watch

Long-time property owners in Dewey Beach are likely familiar with the Winter Watch Program. Here we provide more information on this program, as well as new updates for all of our residents.



**We're Looking Out
for You!**

Change of
permanent
address, phone
number, or email?

[Click Here!](#)

The Winter Watch, or Property Watch program began as an "opt-in" courtesy provided by the Dewey Beach Police. Property owners that would be closing up their homes in the off-season could submit their contact information to the department. In the event of storm damage or suspicious activity, the police would then be able to notify that property owner of any concerns regarding their home. Thanks to enhanced software systems, there is no longer an "opt-in" requirement. All properties are considered "registered" in this program. Unsure if your current phone number or email address is up-to-date? Submit a new Property Watch form [here](#). We'll be sure to update our system for you.

This program should not be confused with a property management company. The DBPD patrols the town regularly, and are always on alert for any problems that arise. However, we will not perform daily checks of entire properties. If you would like scheduled, in-depth checks of your home, we recommend contacting a property management company that can provide this service for you.



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)

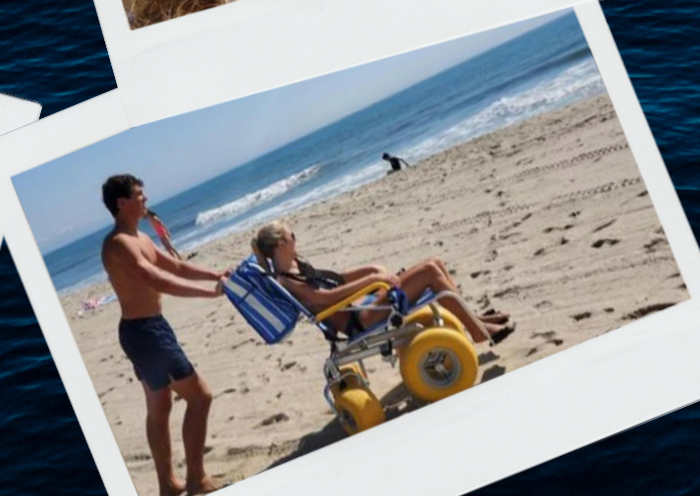


Donate to Dewey Beach

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!](#)



Good News

Positivity, Empowerment & Kindness

Dewey Beach Police Officer Gavin Vaughn was promoted to Corporal on February 17th. Thank you Corporal Vaughn for your hard work and continuing to protect all of us in Dewey Beach.

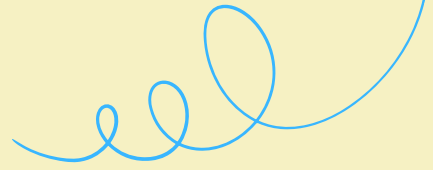


Dewey Beach Police Officer Brooks Jenny was promoted to Sergeant on February 17th. Thank you Sergeant Jenny for your years of dedication to the Town of Dewey Beach.

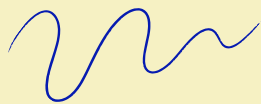


Our new Code Enforcement van joins the vehicle fleet! This vehicle will primarily be used by our Building Department staff.

Adopt-a-Dune



Our dunes are outfitted with beach access mats to help visitors of all ages and abilities safely enter the beach. To offset the cost of purchase and maintenance of the mats, we offer the opportunity to "Adopt-a-Dune!" Individuals or organizations can purchase and fully customize their own advertisement panel to be added to a beach access mat.



The process is simple! Complete the [Adopt-a-Dune form](#) online to order your beach access mat. Provide either a simple message for your mat, or, upload a full color logo or design. We even give you the option to select your street entrance of choice. Questions? Give us a call at Town Hall (302) 227-6363.



Your sponsorship guarantees placement of your mat for 3 years from the date of installation. Dune mats make great surprises to unveil during your family vacation to Dewey! Turnaround time for completed mats is currently 4 weeks, so [order your mat today!](#)

TREE ORDINANCE 803

Understanding the Code

On February 17th, the Dewey Beach Town Commissioners passed Ordinance 803 that clarifies the existing provisions on trees, adds a section regarding replacement of trees, and also expands penalties for violations of the tree ordinance. Here we provide a brief outline on the changes to the Town Code. Review the ordinance in it's entirety by clicking [here](#). We recommend that property owners ensure their landscapers are adhering to the tree ordinance - unpaid fines related to improper removal of trees may result in denial of future permits and licenses to property owners.

This ordinance will go into effect April 1, 2023.

Section 173-2 Removal of Trees

- Trees of non-native species can no longer be removed without a permit.
- No tree with a circumference of 20" or more, measured one foot above ground level, can be removed without a permit from the Building Official. For a permit to be issued, the following criteria must be met:

- (1) Tree is less than 40" in circumference measured one foot above ground level, and is shorter than 25 feet measured from ground level, or
- (2) Removal of the tree is required to prevent harm to persons or property, or
- (3) The tree is unlikely to survive due to causes such as age or disease, or
- (4) The tree is located within the footprint of new construction (specific rules apply, outlined in ordinance).

A signed statement from a licensed arborist is required to support clauses (2) and (3). Trees posing an imminent threat should be reported to the Building Official. Emergency tree work may be necessary in these instances.

Section 173-24 Topping & Pruning

Topping of trees is prohibited. Pruning is permitted, but requires a permit from the Town Building Official. Permits for pruning will be issued at no cost.

Section 173-6 Violations & Penalties

- Failure to replace a tree as required in Section 173-3 is subject to a fine Of \$1,000, increasing to \$3,000 if not paid within 60 days of violation notice. Failure to replace a tree within 1 year of violation notice will incur an additional \$3,000 fine, increasing \$3,000 each year that the tree is not replaced.
- Any person in violation of Section 173 by improperly removing or destroying trees is subject to a \$3,000 fine, and will be required to replace such tree with one of comparable size and species outlined by the DE Department of Agriculture. Fines that remain unpaid after 60 days shall incur an additional \$3,000 penalty. Failure to replace trees as ordered by the Building Official will result in fines previously outlined above.
- Any unpaid fines for violations of this chapter must be satisfied before any future licenses or permits will be issued to the property owner of the subject property.

Section 173-3 Replacement of Trees Removed Under Permit

Each tree removed or destroyed under a permit according to criteria (1) or (4) in Section 173-2 must be replaced with a new tree satisfying minimum requirements outlined in the ordinance. Please review this section in full [here](#) if your tree removal meets the criteria.

News Brief

The Board of Adjustment is seeking a new member! Property owners and residents interested in joining the BOA should reach out to the chairperson [here](#).

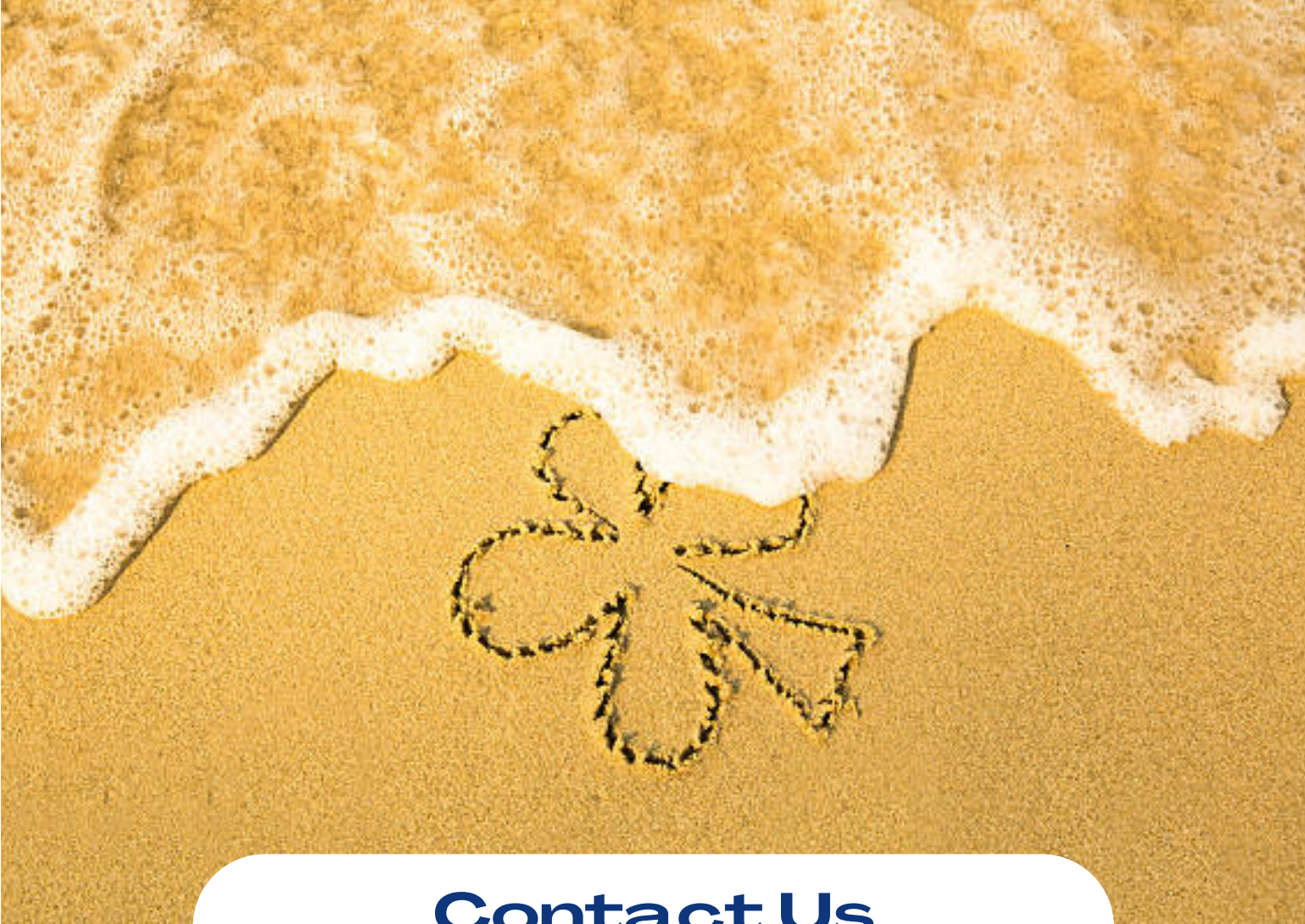
The licensing year in Dewey Beach begins May 1st! Payment and registration period will open April 1st.

2023 Seasonal Parking Permits are scheduled to go on sale April 10th!

The Town of Dewey Beach may be adopting an official tagline! Submit your idea [here](#).

The Town of Dewey Beach is currently accepting proposals for a beach trash and recycling collection provider. For more information, click [here](#).

Stay tuned for next month's SPRING newsletter! We'll be covering everything you need to know to prepare for Summer in Dewey 2023!



Contact Us

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