



MAY 2023

# A WAY OF LIFE

Official Newsletter of The Town of Dewey Beach

## Happy Memorial Day!

This month marks the start of summer for all of our coastal towns. We've been working hard during the off-season to prepare for Summer 2023, and we're excited to welcome you all back to the beach here in Dewey!

We'd also like to extend our sincere thanks to our Dewey residents and visitors who have served, and continue to serve in the armed forces. We honor you not just on Memorial Day, but every day. Thank you for your service.

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# Town Manager's *Update*

The Town is preparing for Summer 2023! Keeping public safety and the streets clean are our top priorities. Our Police Chief is working hard to recruit quality full-time officers, summer officers, and ensuring the town has at least two full time officers working per shift. The Chief and I continue to meet with business owners doing introductions, establishing good lines of communication, exchanging ideas, and ensuring a safe environment for this summer. The Civic League will give everyone an opportunity to come out and meet the new Chief on Saturday May 6th at 4pm at the Lifeguard Station located at 1 Dagworthy Avenue. A special thanks to the Civic League for holding this event.

Todd Fritchman returns for his 28th year as Dewey Beach's Lifeguard Captain with an outstanding Beach Patrol safety record and program. The Beach Patrol held their lifeguard try-outs with more than 25 applicants competing for 10 positions. The Beach Patrol will be fully staffed and ready to keep the beach safe this summer.

Keeping Dewey Beach clean has been one of my priorities since arriving two years ago. You will see our town employees and myself out during the week and weekends keeping the streets clean. I'd like to say thanks to those citizens and business owners that are out helping to keep Dewey Beach clean by picking up trash. THANK YOU! We really need all of the business owners to help clean the sidewalks and streets around their businesses. I truly believe if the town looks clean folks are more willing to use the trash cans instead of littering.

The town still has positions open for our Parking Ambassador Team, starting at \$18.00/hr with flexible hours. Parking Ambassadors focus first on educating the public, followed by enforcement of parking regulations. We also have a summer ground maintenance position that is still available at \$18.00/hr with flexible hours. If you are interested in either position, [click here](#).

Dewey Beach has experienced several house fires over the last two years. As we move into warmer dryer weather, please ensure your smoke detectors and fire extinguishers are up to date and functional. Also, any piles of pine needles, sticks, or leaves need to be disposed of. Keeping with the same theme, our Dewey Beach Volunteer of the Year is the Rehoboth Beach Volunteer Fire Company (RBVFC). They have responded to several fires in Dewey Beach over the last two years saving lives and property. The men and women of the RBVFC are all volunteers giving their personal time and energy to keep us safe. A big Dewey Beach thank you to Chief Chuck Snyder and all the members of the RBVFC!

## Updates:

- The Beach Replenishment start date has been delayed until May 12th. They hope to have replenishment done before Memorial Day Weekend.
- Dewey Beach Public Safety Camera signs have been installed on RT 1, the gazebo on Van Dyke Ave, and around the Lions Club Parking Lot.
- Paving on New Orleans Street bayside is scheduled to start May 8th and be completed by the 9th.
- Paid parking will start May 15th. Our maintenance team will be out working to ensure all meters and parking signs are installed by the 15th.

*Bill Zolper*



# Police Chief's

*Update*

I wanted to take this opportunity to give everyone a status report on our Police Department heading into our summer season. My entire staff has been working hard preparing for the Summer of '23!

My background in law enforcement is heavily rooted in Community Policing and Training. My goal is to provide a high level of training to our Police Officers so they can handle any situation that they may encounter, and to work with the community, businesses, and guests to make this a safe place to live and visit.

We have been interviewing for both seasonal Police Officer positions, as well as seasonal Dispatcher positions. So far the quality of candidates is outstanding! So now the next step is to provide them with quality training, assign them mentors, and provide consistent and quality supervision. Some big changes will include our seasonal police officers will be equipped with body-worn cameras, and some will be trained as mountain bike officers. Our mountain bike unit is being brought back to help our response times during the summer congestion, and enhance or visibility.

As of this writing we have hired an experienced police officer who has recently moved to Delaware from Pennsylvania. This move will leave only one full time position open! Recently with promotions of supervisory personnel, and a change to a new 12-hour shift, we have increased minimum staffing.

We are working on many more new enhancements and services, but I'll save that for upcoming issues!

As the summer draws near, both Lieutenant Dempsey and I will start working more evening shifts and weekends. This will be to provide direct command-level oversight of our personnel during our busiest times.

In closing, I wanted to thank the Mayor, Commissioners, and Town Manager for entrusting the public safety of this wonderful town to me. I have truly landed the dream job for a law enforcement executive.

As summer approaches, I look forward to meeting more of you and establishing close working relationships. Please have a safe, prosperous, and enjoyable summer.

*Chief Constance Speake*

Join Chief Speake for a  
"Meet & Greet"  
hosted by the Dewey Beach  
Civic League!

May 6th at 4:00pm  
Dewey Beach Lifesaving Station



# BEACH Safety 101



We strive to keep our beaches as beautiful and safe as possible. Each year, the Dewey Beach Patrol is thoughtfully selected and provided with the best training available. All guards are certified as Emergency First Responders by the DE State Fire School, Basic Life Support Providers by the American Heart Association, and as open water rescue lifeguards with the United States Lifesaving Association.

Safety is our number one priority, and educating the public is paramount in this endeavor. Be aware of the most common hazards at the beach, and help us to keep everyone safe this summer.

## Digging Into Dunes

We are lucky to have high, solid dune structures in Dewey Beach! The dunes serve many purposes and maintaining their integrity is top priority (more information on page 3). But the dunes can pose a danger in certain circumstances.

While a giant hill of sand seems like a fun place to dig the perfect tunnel, doing so is extremely dangerous. Never attempt to dig or tunnel into the side of a dune. Not only is this against beach rules, but it poses a serious risk as well. There have been numerous instances in beach communities of sand tunnels collapsing and trapping people inside.

Protect yourself, and the dunes!



## Digging Holes

There have been numerous accounts at beaches across the country of holes dug in sand collapsing, and trapping those playing or digging inside. Avoid digging deep holes, as they're likely to collapse.

Holes in the sand also pose a threat to others walking on the beach, or emergency vehicles.

A good rule of thumb is to never dig a hole in the sand deeper than knee height of the smallest person in your group!

Anytime you dig, be sure to fill in the area before you leave the beach.

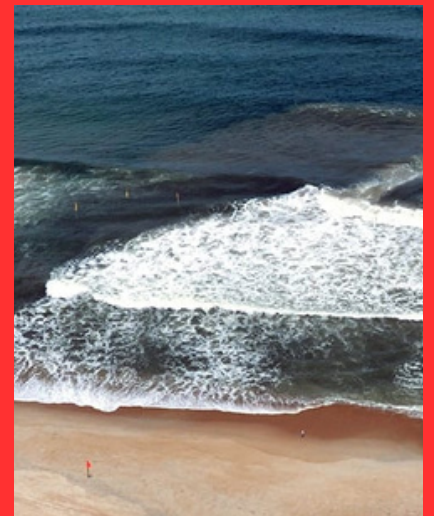


## Rip Currents

Rip currents can happen on any beach with breaking waves. Common signs of rip currents include areas of deeper or darker water, sections of beach with fewer breaking waves, sandy-colored water that extends beyond the surf, or significant water movement. While rip currents do not pull you under water, they pull you quickly away from shore.

We advise all visitors to swim near a lifeguard. Be aware of ocean conditions and your own capabilities, and never swim alone. When in doubt, don't go out!

Know the signs of a rip current and how to escape. [Click here](#) for more information.



# dewey dunes

## natural defense

Dewey is home to some of the largest ocean dune structures in the Delaware beach area. This is especially important for our town, given the geographical makeup of Dewey Beach. At two blocks wide, only a small amount of land separates the ocean from the bay. While this makes Dewey particularly beautiful and unique, it also means we are at a severe risk of flooding. Dunes serve as "sand storage" that helps diminish shoreline erosion. They absorb the impact of storm surge and high waves, providing a natural buffer from the force of the ocean. The dunes are the only protection we have from rising ocean tides, and it is crucial that everyone do their part to protect their integrity.



## an evolving ecosystem

Beach grass and other vegetation helps to stabilize existing dunes. "Cape" American beach grass is most common in our area, and volunteers take part in yearly planting to help ensure dune structures. Beach grass reduces wind velocity near the ground, trapping windblown sand. As sand accumulates, the grass continues to spread and grow upward, maintaining a protective cover over the dune.

Sand dunes also serve as a habitat and nesting area for a variety of insects, small mammals, and birds. Delaware is a haven for a large population of migratory birds, many of whom rely on the dunes as both a food source and rest area during their journey.

## how to help

The best way to help maintain Dewey's dunes is to simply avoid them! Post and rope fencing is placed throughout the beaches to distinguish pedestrian crossing areas, and block off the dunes. Do not cross over the rope fencing. Never play or run on the dunes, as it damages beach grass and diminishes the dune structure.

Don't leave items such as beach chairs, strollers, or umbrellas on the dunes. It is especially important to pick up trash, and never litter on the beach. Doing so endangers both beach and marine wildlife.

Help to educate friends and children about the importance of staying off the dunes. Visit the [DNREC website](#) for more information.



# MAY 15TH

## Rules & Regs

May 15th marks the start of the summer season. This day is also the start of in-season regulations. Know the rules before you visit!



### PARKING FEES

You must pay to park on public streets in Dewey Beach. There are many options available depending on how long you plan to stay in town. [Click here](#) for more information!



### DOGS ON THE BEACH

While dogs can enjoy the beach all year long in Dewey, restricted hours go into effect on May 15th. Dogs with a Dewey Beach license may enjoy the beach before 9:30am and after 5:30pm.

The summer season is peak time for dogs to be on the beach. Be prepared that many dogs will be off-leash. Know your dog's limits and behavior, and avoid busy times if necessary for everyone's safety.

For more information on dog licensing, [click here!](#)



### ALCOHOL ON THE BEACH

Alcohol is prohibited on the beach from May 15th through September 15th. The Dewey Beach Patrol will issue a warning to anyone in possession of alcohol. Further infractions are subject to fines.

Additionally, smoking is always prohibited on the beach.

# 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*

# 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

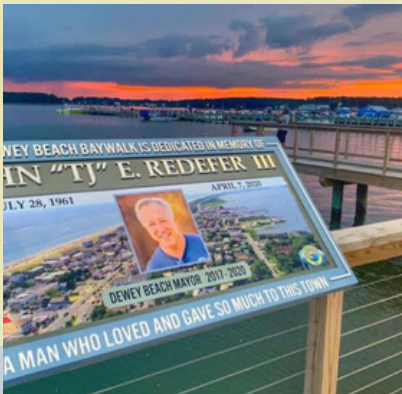
**September 23rd:** Election Day! Cast your vote at the Dewey Beach Lifesaving Station between 10:00am and 6:00pm.

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

*A Day...*

# *On The Bay*

If you know, you know! The bay beach is a hidden gem here in Dewey, tucked at the end of the block, accessible from both Dickinson Avenue and Van Dyke Street. By day you'll enjoy all of the beach activities you can dream of, and at night it's the perfect spot to relax while watching the sun disappear into the bay. Families and friends of all ages will love the experience of the bay beach... it's just further proof that Dewey has something for everyone!



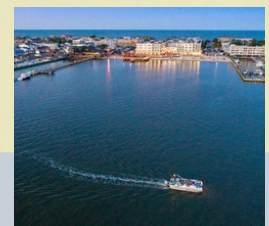
## *The Baywalk*

Named after our beloved former Mayor, The TJ Redefer Memorial Baywalk is a must-see during a stay in town. Take a stroll down the boards at dusk for the perfect view of the sunset over the bay. You're in close proximity of restaurants to enjoy dinner and music on the water. This is a great spot to see boats coming in and out of nearby marinas, and lucky spectators may even catch sight of a dolphin enjoying the bay. Don't forget to snap a photo with friends and family under the Dewey Beach sign at the end of the pier!



## *The Beach*

Enjoy a day on the gorgeous bay beach! Amenities abound on the bay - volleyball, bonfires, kayaking, jet skiing, boating and parasailing are just a few of the activities to enjoy. With no dune to cross, the bay beach is also easily accessible for everyone.



## *The Bay*

The bay is a great place to play or cool off on a hot summer day, especially for younger beach lovers who aren't quite ready to brave the ocean waves. A swimming area is marked off with buoys for your safety!

# News Brief

Town Hall summer hours  
begin May 6th.

Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm

Saturday 9am - 3pm

Sunday 10am - 2pm

The licensing year in Dewey  
Beach begins May 1st!

Businesses and rentals must  
be licensed to operate in  
Dewey.

Stay informed on legislation  
changes, updates, and more  
by attending Town Council  
and committee meetings.  
Check the calendar [here!](#)

Congratulations to Police  
Officer Carl Kurten who was  
promoted to Corporal at the  
April Town Council Meeting!

Town administrative offices  
will be closed Monday, May  
29th in observance of  
Memorial Day.

Check out the [Rehoboth-  
Dewey Chamber of  
Commerce](#) for upcoming  
events in our area!



## Contact Us

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