

NOVEMBER 2024



DELAWARE'S FAVORITE PLAYGROUND

Official Newsletter of The Town of Dewey Beach



Giving Thanks

This month is all about gratitude! We're showing our appreciation for our volunteers that keep Dewey up and running, as well as our law enforcement officers who are committed to protecting us all! We're lucky to live the "beach life" that we love, and we're inviting you to pay it forward too! The month of November kicks off our holiday fundraising, and we're once again partnering with the Cape Henlopen School District and Humane Animal Partners to spread the holiday cheer!



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TOWN MANAGER'S

Update

We had a great turn out for our Halloween Trick-or-Treat event in town this year. All of the businesses, the Dewey Beach Business Partnership with their many volunteers, and our own Dewey Beach Police Department did an outstanding job making Dewey Beach a great place to be for all of our little trick-or-treaters and those who are young at heart! Thank you to all!

Now for some updates on town projects:

- DeIDOT's Dewey Beach Public Safety Project on RT 1 will begin the week of December 2nd and finish sometime in March of 2025. This project includes improving and replacing sidewalks as needed, updating and moving signage where necessary, continuing the "Dewey Wave" from Saulsbury Street to Clayton Street, and Read Avenue to Collins Avenue, updating crosswalk markings, and lowering the yellow beacons at crosswalks.
- DeIDOT has postponed the street paving project until the Fall of 2025.
- After a year of working with Representative Schwartzkopf and the Secretary of State's Office, DNREC, and DeIDOT, the Dewey Beach Lifesaving Station located at 1 Dagsworthy Avenue has been turned over to the Town from the state. I will be working with the state to get the location designated and marked as a historical location. Thank you Representative Schwartzkopf for all of your assistance to make this happen!
- The Burn Ban issued by the State Fire Marshal's Office is still in effect for Dewey Beach.
- The Town applied for and received \$53,000 in Community Transportation Funds (CTF) supported by Senator Huxtable and Representative Schwartzkopf for storm drain projects on the first and second block of Jersey Street. I expect this project to start this winter.

Lastly, we have quite a few holidays during the month of November. Town administrative offices will be closed on the following days:

- November 5th - Election Day
- November 7th - Return Day
- November 11th - Veterans Day
- November 28th & 29th - Thanksgiving

Wishing you all a wonderful and safe Thanksgiving!

-Bill



the “off” season

We're often asked, "after the crowds leave town and things slow down, what is happening behind the scenes in Dewey?" Well, like any summer town, the off season is actually the "on" season for our staff and volunteers! We like to say that a perfect summer is made in the fall and winter. This month, we give thanks to our hard-working committee members who volunteer their time to make Dewey the best it can be. Here we put the spotlight on just a few of our committees, and what they're working on this fall.



Charter & Code Review Committee

Since 1981, many hard-working committee members and commissioners worked together to create legislation to benefit Dewey Beach. As you can imagine, certain needs of the town are bound to change over time. This group of volunteers assesses all aspects of the charter and code, and makes recommendations to our Town Council on legislation that may need to be updated or improved to best serve residents, visitors, and business owners.



Climate Change Committee

The purpose of the Climate Change Committee is to make recommendations to the Town Council regarding likely climate change impacts in Dewey Beach and ways to adapt to and mitigate these impacts. This committee does the hard work of researching climate change issues that directly affect the Delaware coastal community.



Finance Committees

Our Audit and Finance Committees are committed to protecting and improving the financial health of the town. Many members bring years of accounting, banking, or investment expertise to the table. With public safety being paramount, maintenance and waste management, beach patrol, and police presence are non-negotiable necessities. However, these services come at a hefty cost! Our Finance Committee assists the Town Council in exploring the best options to cover these expenses.

TOWN COUNCIL

"The most important single ingredient in the formula of success is knowing how to get along with people."

Theodore Roosevelt

Our Town Council is made up of elected officials who are committed to volunteering their time doing the hard work - and making the harder decisions - to ensure that Dewey Beach is a great place for visitors, residents, and business owners. While they may not always agree on a certain pathway to success, they all share the same end goal... protect and preserve the Town of Dewey Beach.

We're grateful for our town leadership that demonstrates regularly that mutual respect, positivity, and teamwork is how we get the job done. Thank You!



let's grow together



Dear Dewey Beach Resident,

The Dewey in Bloom project kicked off in the Spring of 2024, with the goal of beautifying Dewey Beach with colorful flowers and plants. Thanks to generous donations, we were able to place 28 “bloom boxes” down the Route 1 corridor, brimming with beautiful flowers. We continued our mission for Fall 2024, and just recently placed cold weather-tolerant plants to last throughout autumn into early winter. We strive to keep Dewey Beach blooming as long as possible, for all to enjoy!

Many residents have asked how to get a bloom box installed on their street. We'd be glad to help you in this endeavor! Many of our planters throughout town are sponsored and maintained by groups of neighbors.

Step 1: Spread the word! Ask your neighbors to join you in raising money to sponsor a bloom box on your street. The total cost for a new sponsorship for 2025 is \$750.

Step 2: Recruit your team! Bloom boxes require weekly watering over the summer, and some pruning/maintenance. We recommend a team of at least 2 neighbors to plant and care for your bloom box. Planting takes place twice a year, once in the spring, and again in the fall.

Step 3: Enjoy! Being part of a club, fostering community connections, and spending time gardening are all great for our wellbeing, and directly benefits our town.

To learn more, or to get in touch with a volunteer coordinator, [click here!](#) We can't wait to welcome you to our Dewey in Bloom family!

Sincerely,

Dewey in Bloom 

visit us online at townofdeweybeach.com



TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE AN IMPACT

Dewey Beach has historically proven that when our community comes together, magic happens! We're continuing our holiday tradition of donating to those in need, and we invite our residents and visitors to join us in this group effort. We understand that the holidays are a busy time, so we're offering multiple ways to give for your convenience, with donation items to fit every budget.



CAPE HENLOPEN SCHOOL DISTRICT



The Town of Dewey Beach has historically been a major contributor to the Cape Henlopen School District Adopt-a-Family program. Each year, CHSD collects new toys, clothing, and gift cards for families in need.

Some of the most popular items to gift are sports equipment, puzzles, board games, craft and art supplies, dolls and action figures. You are welcome to donate any new, unwrapped toys that you wish to gift! Toys are needed for kids of all ages.

Also requested are winter clothing items like coats, gloves and hats. All sizes and styles are welcome. Please donate only new, unused clothing items.

Gift cards are also accepted by CHSD! Gift cards of all types are welcome. Grocery store cards can help with the purchase of a holiday dinner for a family. Gift cards for restaurants, ice cream shops, bookstores, or a movie theatre treat kids to experiences with family that we may otherwise take for granted! Also consider gift cards for experiences a family can enjoy this summer, such as skim/surf lessons, mini golf, or a water park.

**SIGN UP FOR
YOUR GIFT
TODAY!**

Let us know what
you're excited to gift
this year! Hurry! We're
collecting gifts up until
December 6th!





Dewey is a dog-friendly town! With so many animal lovers in our area, it's fitting for us to join Humane Animal Partners in providing for pets in need this holiday season.

During the winter months, shelter animals must spend more time indoors. To combat boredom and depression, enrichment activities are crucial. Our goal is to help provide enrichment toys to our local shelter. Unsure how to choose this type of toy? Use our sign up option to see the shelter wish list!

Humane Animal Partners also maintains a "want list" of items that are always appreciated, such as cat litter, canned cat food, canned pumpkin, and cleaning supplies. These are items that are easy to find at your nearest grocery store. We encourage you to pick up a couple of these items to donate at your next shopping trip. Even small donations are greatly appreciated!

Want to help out even more? Consider participating in the [Doggy Day Out](#) program to give a dog a day of fun outside of the shelter!

**SIGN UP FOR
YOUR GIFT
TODAY!**

Let us know what
you're excited to gift
this year! Hurry! We're
collecting gifts up until
December 13th!





DBPD
thank you

The Dewey Beach Police Department proudly represented us at numerous Halloween events in our area, starting off with the Dewey Sea Witch Trick-or-Treat! Our officers know the importance of building strong relationships with our community, and are eager to join in the fun and meet all of you! Many thanks to the DBPD, and to everyone who stopped by to say hello and enjoy the event with us!

[Learn More About the DBPD](#)

Where the Fun Never Ends!

DEWEY BEACH HOSTS A VARIETY OF EVENTS ALL YEAR LONG!



Holidays at the Beach

The Rehoboth-Dewey Chamber of Commerce is always adding new events to their calendar! Come visit us - the holidays are better at the beach!

[READ MORE](#) 



DBP Tree Lighting

November 30th at 5:30pm, the Dewey Business Partnership hosts the Tree Lighting at Fifer's Market! Join us to kick off the holidays Dewey-style!

[READ MORE](#) 



Baywalk Events

We're decking out the south end of Dewey too! Join us December 7th at 5:30pm for the Baywalk Tree Lighting overlooking the beautiful Rehoboth Bay!

[READ MORE](#) 



Sip & Shop

The Developing Artists Collaboration once again brings us Sip & Shop for Black Friday weekend! Support our local artists and give one-of-a-kind gifts!

[READ MORE](#) 



Let's Talk Trash

- Our current residential trash contract expires in the spring of 2025. Town staff begins the work now to assess the needs of our residents and homeowners, and decide if changes need to be made in the collection process of waste and recycling. We want to hear your thoughts! But first, in order to move forward, it's important to understand how far we've come.

This topic will be discussed at the next Town Council meeting on November 15th!



Trash & Recycling Committee

In 2016, the Trash & Recycling Committee was formed to tackle trash problems in town. There were a number of concerns:

- Residents had the choice of securing their own trash provider. While this was great to have the freedom to price shop, it had many drawbacks. Streets became overrun with different trash collection companies, driving around 24/7, all on different schedules. It was noisy, congested, and created excessive wear and tear on our streets.
- Without proper oversight, some residents decided not to pay for trash collection, and instead disposed of household waste in public trash cans. This resulted in many overfilled cans on street corners, and trash blowing around town.
- There was no mandatory valet service for rental properties. Cans were left in the public right-of-way by tenants for extended periods of time, overfilling with trash.

In the end, the committee recommended to the Town Council to enter a contract with a single-source vendor for residential properties (only one company would serve the town for residential trash and recycling). This vendor would provide cans for each property. Property owners who rented their home were required to secure valet service - this would prevent cans being left in the right-of-way, or not being put out for collection. These changes greatly improved the issues related to trash.



Where Are We Now?

In 2016, the bidding process for a single-source trash and recycling vendor yielded only one applicant. While the company has been bought out numerous times, we've continued with the original service contract.

Considerations...

- Current pricing is as follows:
 - In Season (twice/week trash collection, once/week recycling collection): \$31/mo basic; \$47.12/mo valet
 - Off Season (once/week trash collection, biweekly recycling collection): \$26.57/mo basic; \$37.31/mo valet
- From the start of the contract in 2017 to 2024, homeowners have experienced a price increase of less than \$1 per year.
- Property owners may opt to cancel service temporarily when their home is not occupied.
- Arguably, Dewey Beach trash collection is not a sought-after contract. The amount of valet service, narrow, crowded/busy streets, and traffic congestion makes collection exceptionally difficult.
- In order to lower pricing, changes will likely need to be made. For instance, this could include fixed, yearly pricing for all properties, with no option to "opt out."

Let's Hear It!



Are you satisfied with your trash collection services? Do you have ideas for change? Let us know [here!](#)

News Brief

Congratulations!

Our 2024 Dewey Beach Lifeguard of the Year, Patrick Williamson, will be honored at this month's Town Council meeting on November 15th! Congratulations Patrick, and thank you for proudly serving Dewey Beach visitors and residents!



Upcoming Meetings

November 15th - Town Council

November 16th - Climate Change Committee

MEETING CALENDAR & AGENDAS



Bay Beach Kayak Rack

A kayak rack has been installed on the south end of the Bay Beach off of Van Dyke Avenue. Kayak storage spaces are currently free for public use.

Would you like to store your kayak? Please fill out this [registration form](#) prior to storing so we may contact you as needed.

Please note, the town is not responsible for damaged or stolen kayaks. We recommend securing your kayak with cable locks. Holes are drilled in the rack to make it easier to lock up your kayak.





Contact Us

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

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Website

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