



OCTOBER 2024

DELAWARE'S FAVORITE PLAYGROUND

Official Newsletter of The Town of Dewey Beach

It's Spooky Season!

Sure, we're a town of summer lovers, but the month of October is one of our favorites here in Dewey Beach! We've come to expect gorgeous beach days during the early fall, so we're not packing up our swimsuits just yet! And for those cooler nights, there's no better time than "spooky season" to host a beach bonfire, enjoy some s'mores by the sea, and spend time with friends and family while cozied up in a blanket on our beach chair. Join us in celebrating the arrival of autumn, and all of the fun activities that come along with the season!



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TOWN MANAGER'S

Update

October is here, and there are lots of activities happening in Dewey Beach this month. Here are a just few:

- October 5th - Dewey Goes Pink, a great fundraiser for Breast Cancer Awareness
- October 12th - Greyhounds Reach the Beach
- October 19th - Jazz Festival at the Rusty Rudder
- October 25th and 26th - Dewey's Trick or Treat and the Haunted Trail

More information about these events can be found in this newsletter and on various websites.

The new start date for DelDOT's paving project is October 21st, weather-permitting.

The town's three projects to address flooding are in progress. The Read Avenue bayside project is pending with the Army Corps of Engineers. The Jersey Street project may be proceeding over the next several months, with the possibility of installation of French drains. The Van Dyke Avenue bayside storm drain study will be partially funded with a DNREC grant. Any questions about any of these projects please send me an email at townmanager@townofdeweybeach.com.

The town is considering raising the freeboard from our current code of BFE plus 1 to BFE plus 3. This change has been discussed and considered for over a year in the Climate Change Committee, Planning and Zoning Commission, and by the Town Council. What does this mean to you the property owner here in Dewey Beach? See page 6 to learn more.

Finally, as many of you know, after 22 years of representing the 14th District in Delaware's State Legislature, Pete Schwartzkopf is retiring this year. I've known Pete for over 30 years, first working with him at State Police Troop 7 when I was a young Trooper, and later working alongside Pete as the Town Manager here in Dewey. Pete has always had a special place in his heart for Dewey Beach, attending and supporting many of the town events and fundraisers. He has assisted and supported the town's request in obtaining:

- Millions of dollars in funding for the current DelDOT RT 1 Public Safety ADA Project including the Center Island Post and Ropes Project
- \$4 million dollars in state funding for the new Town Hall and police station
- Over \$200,000 in Community Transportation Funding (CTF) for multiple street and safety projects around town, including the radar speed board and a proposed public information board to help slow traffic before reaching the crosswalks.

Pete, for all your support to the Town of Dewey Beach over the years I'd want to thank you, and wish you good luck in retirement. You will be missed!

Enjoy October!

-Bill



PROPERTY OWNERS

Fall Reminders



Accommodations Tax

Did you rent your property between April 1st and September 30th? Your accommodations tax payment is due by October 15th!

The accommodations tax rate is 3% of your gross proceeds derived from your rental.

We make it easy to submit your form, payment and receipts online [here](#).

Do you have questions about the accommodations tax? Visit our [website](#), or call us at (302) 227-6363.

Building Permits

Fall is a peak time for property owners to catch up on maintenance or renovations of their property. Either yourself, or your contractor must file a building permit for most jobs! If you're planning to complete work on your property this fall, [file your permit application](#) today to ensure you receive your permit before work begins.



Property Watch

Are you planning to be out of town for the off-season? Make sure we have up-to-date contact information by submitting a [Property Watch form](#). If we're alerted to any issues related to your home, such as water leaks, storm damage, or suspicious activity, we'll be sure to contact you.



Sea Witch 2024 Festival



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25TH

TRICK-OR-TREAT

6:30PM - 7:30PM

BONFIRE BEACH PARTY

DICKINSON AVE BAYSIDE

7:00PM - 9:00PM

ZOMBIE GRAVEYARD

DICKINSON AVE BAYSIDE

7:00PM - 9:00PM

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26TH

ZOMBIE GRAVEYARD

DICKINSON AVE BAYSIDE

7:00PM - 9:00PM



You may have heard of the Sea Witch Festival in Rehoboth Beach, but did you know that Dewey helps to kick off the weekend festivities? Join us for town-wide trick-or-treating and a beach party on the bay at Van Dyke Avenue, complete with zombie graveyard, dj, and a bonfire! This event is free for kids (\$5 donation requested from adults at the beach party)!

This year, the Zombie Graveyard returns on Saturday for an extra night of fun!

HALLOWEEN

meet & greet



join the DBPD for fall events!

Dewey Beach Trick-or-Treat

1505 Coastal Highway
October 25th, 6:30p - 7:30p

Cops & Goblins

John West Park in Oceanview
October 26th, 1:00p - 4:00p

Trunk-or-Treat

Georgetown DMV
October 28th, 6:00p - 8:00p



FIGHTING THE FLOOD

Over the past year, the Climate Change Committee, Planning & Zoning Commission, and Town Council have investigated the need to increase the mandatory freeboard for new construction, and existing structures undergoing substantial renovations. This [ordinance](#) could potentially be approved at the next Town Council meeting on October 18th. We continue to strive to educate and inform our property owners about changes that could affect you. Here, we break down what an increase in freeboard could mean for you.

Key Terms

BFE - Base Flood Elevation

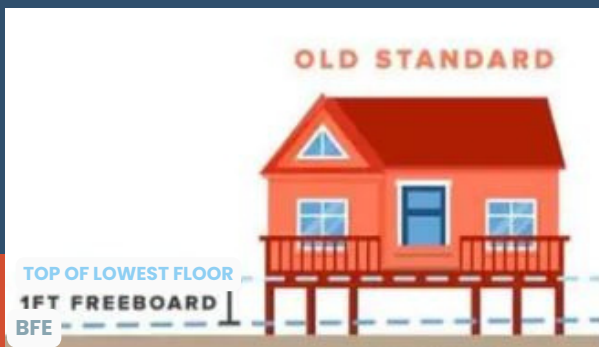
A calculated prediction established by FEMA that indicates the level to which flood waters will rise during a base flood. BFE numbers may differ depending on your flood zone. Find your BFE [here](#).

Freeboard

A built-in safety factor that raises the first floor above and beyond the BFE. Currently, Dewey Beach building code requires 1 foot of freeboard in addition to the FEMA-determined BFE.

Community Rating System (CRS)

A voluntary incentive program that recognizes and encourages community floodplain management practices that exceed the minimum requirements of the [National Flood Insurance Program \(NFIP\)](#). Dewey Beach participates in the CRS.



Why Increase Freeboard?

- Risk of flood waters reaching living space is reduced
- Higher freeboard can provide additional safety margins against storm surges and heavy rainfall, which could exceed the BFE
- May lower flood insurance premiums
- May lower cost of flood damage repairs
- Can increase property value and marketability
- Higher points in the CRS may result in insurance discounts
- May reduce floodplain development
- Can eliminate economic and social impacts of flooding



Potential Drawbacks

- High elevation can result in increased construction costs, particularly for foundations and structural supports.
- Accessibility challenges, requiring additional design considerations for ramps, stairs and elevators.
- Potentially effect the aesthetic appeal and design of buildings.
- With increased freeboard, buildings may appear to "tower" compared to ground level.



Learn More and Voice Your Opinion

For more information, please review the [attachments](#) from our most recent Planning & Zoning Meeting, or watch the educational presentation [here](#) (begins at 8:25) by committee chairperson Dave Lyons. Send your comments, questions or concerns to us [here](#). All messages will be sent to Town Council for review and consideration. Keep an eye on the [Town Meeting Calendar](#) to participate in live discussions regarding this topic and many more.

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 fall is the perfect time of year to enjoy a fire by the sea!

[READ MORE](#) 



Area Events

The Rehoboth-Dewey Chamber of Commerce is your resource to find lots of events happening in our area all year long!

[READ MORE](#) 



Sea Witch 2024

Dewey celebrates the Sea Witch Festival on Friday, October 27th! Get your costumes ready for trick-or-treating and other fun events!

[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](#) 



a place for us

an editorial

I was lying face down on my blanket, propped up with my latest beach read in hand when I was suddenly ambushed. A sandy, wet ball of fluff barreled into me like a tumbleweed, knocking the sunglasses from my face and trampling my book with heedless energy. Then came the onslaught of salty, sandy kisses that covered every inch of my face. This was my introduction to Sam, a 10-week-old Golden Retriever puppy who couldn't contain his excitement for his very first Golden Jubilee in Dewey Beach. Sam's profusely apologetic "dad" rushed over, only to be met with my insistence that little Sam was welcome to share my beach blanket for as long as he liked.

Each year, Dewey Beach welcomes more and more of our canine friends, many of them joining an organized meetup like the Golden Jubilee, a bi-annual celebration of the Golden Retriever. In the spring, the Doodles in Dewey event has our town and beyond brimming with curly-haired poodle-mixes of every shape and size. And in October, we'll welcome back the hounds for the longstanding Greyhounds Reach the Beach event. Events like these have helped to solidify Dewey's reputation as a dog-friendly paradise.

Charles M. Schulz, creator of the Peanuts comic and official "dog dad" of Snoopy, rightly proclaimed that "happiness is a warm puppy." But if you're a dog lover, and a beach lover like myself, you know that happiness is also the rescue dog, regrettably familiar with the sensation of a cage and cement floor, sinking his toes into warm sand for the first time. Happiness is the family dog, riding in the backseat of the car to their favorite vacation destination, when she catches that familiar whiff of ocean air. Happiness is the senior dog coping with the inevitable effects of age, but bounding through the surf - because there's just some type of healing contained in that salt breeze.

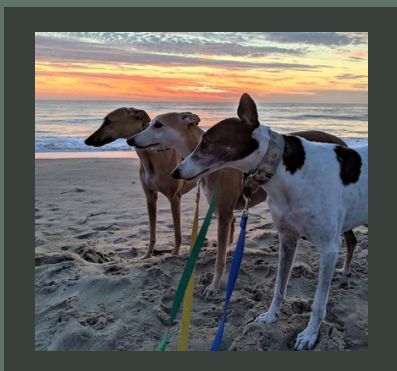
I've had the pleasure of meeting many new people on the beach, and more often than not, it's a dog like Sam who is bridging the gap between myself and a friendly stranger. Maybe this is why dogs, and Dewey Beach, seem to be such a natural fit for one another - both have a way of bringing people together to make new friends, and unforgettable memories.

Most of us would agree the minute we set foot in Dewey, we're immersed in not just the natural beauty, but the energetic, yet carefree culture that is so deeply rooted in the town. There is a shift in our spirit, a shedding of the weight we all carry in our daily lives. Here, we can just "be." Isn't it funny that we'd likely describe being with our dogs in the same way - a positive and carefree energy - our safe spot to just "be," without judgment or burden.

Dogs are a constant reminder to not just live - but also connect - with the present. The thoughts of confinement leave the mind of a shelter dog the minute his paws touch the beach. The family dog isn't worried about her "people" going back to work or school, because she's with them now in their favorite place. Yesterday, nor tomorrow, need to exist for the senior dog. Because *today* is his very best day.

While happiness is indeed a warm puppy, Charles Schulz had a bigger message in mind. True happiness is finding joy in all of the simple gifts that we're given every day. And what a gift we have here in Dewey Beach, *a place for us*, to enjoy all of nature's beauty, with a warm puppy by our side.

- Kate Banaszak



We can keep Dewey Beach a dog-friendly destination with your help! Expect dogs to be off-leash on the beach. Know your dog's limits and behaviors, and always be aware of your surroundings. Be a responsible pet parent, and be sure to pick up after your dog and dispose of waste properly in marked trash receptacles. We can't wait to see you on the beach!



News Brief

Congratulations!

On September 27th, Commissioners Gary Persinger and Bill Stevens were sworn in for another term on our Town Council. By unanimous vote of the commissioners, Bill Stevens will once again serve as our Mayor, and Paul Bauer as Secretary. Congratulations to Mayor Stevens, Commissioner Bauer, and Commissioner Persinger, and thank you for your ongoing leadership!



Upcoming Meetings

- October 9th - Charter & Code Review Committee
- October 10th - Finance Committee
- October 18th - Town Council

MEETING CALENDAR & AGENDAS

Blood Donation Drive

The Dewey Beach Lions Club is hosting a blood drive on Tuesday, October 8th from 12:00-6:00 PM at the Dewey Beach Lions Clubhouse. Let's make this community service project a success once again! Please tell your neighbors, friends & family to sign up to donate blood. Remember, you must wait 8 weeks between donations, so please register ahead of time to donate [here!](#)





Contact Us

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