



APRIL 2024

# DELAWARE'S FAVORITE PLAYGROUND

Official Newsletter of The Town of Dewey Beach

## Happy Spring!

Spring has sprung in Dewey Beach! We are ready for some fun in the sun, and we're here to prepare you for another fantastic summer in Dewey! In this Summer Prep Issue of our monthly newsletter, we're covering all the bases for vacation season. Whether you're a property owner, business owner, or visitor to Dewey, we've got the news you need to be ready for the busy season. We're looking forward to welcoming back old friends and new here to Dewey Beach. Cheers to Summer 2024!

## This Issue

Town Manager's Update  
PAGE 02

Parking 101  
PAGE 03

Beach Bonfires  
PAGE 06

Dewey in Bloom Update  
PAGE 07

Dewey's Gen Z  
PAGE 08

Happenings & Events  
PAGE 10



[Click here to subscribe!](#)

# TOWN MANAGER'S

# Update

I know April showers bring May flowers, but we've gotten an awful lot of rain so far in 2024. The unusual amount of rain, larger homes being built on lots that previously had smaller homes, and a lack of storm drains has caused flooding and large puddles throughout the town. I recognize this is a problem and I hope to address this issue in the fall once we've completed our work on Read Ave bayside. Work on Read Ave bayside should start on April 8th.

Here are some updates you should be aware of:

- The rain has also pushed back the state's repaving project in town to April 15th. They will be starting on the state-owned streets on the north end west of King Charles. They will continue down Bayard Ave paving the second blocks to Bellevue Street. All other streets will be done in the fall. Please see the updates on our town webpage.
- The front office at Town Hall will now be open from 8am to 5pm Monday through Friday to better serve the public.
- The town will NOT be selling any parking permits for trailers this year. No trailers or boat trailers will be allowed to park in the public parking spaces in the town.
- We will be extending the swimming area on Van Dyke bayside beach this summer. Last summer we had several motorized boats that came too close to shore which was a hazard to swimmers.
- The water tower on Bayard Ave that says Dewey Beach actually doesn't belong to the town, it belongs to the county. I realize it needs to be cleaned, so we've asked the county to perform cleaning on the tower. The county will try to clean the tower before summer starts.

We are looking for folks to join our Dewey Beach team. [Click here](#) to apply for one of the following positions:

- We are looking for part-time and full-time Parking Ambassadors at \$18.00 an hour and scheduled hours are flexible.
- We are also looking for a part-time summer maintenance person to help with ground maintenance around town. It pays \$18.00 an hour and the work schedule is flexible.
- We will be posting a part-time year-round position for the building official's office to assist with processing the increased number of building permits being submitted. This is a clerical type of position. The posting will be on the town webpage and in the Cape Gazette in the coming weeks.

A special thanks goes out to the Dewey Business Partnership, Kelly Ranieri, all of the volunteers, the Hyatt, and the Easter Bunny for an outstanding "Dewey Egg Scoop" on March 30th on Van Dyke bay beach. There were plenty of Easter eggs to be found by happy children and one very happy adult who won a 50/50 contest. This was a great family event attended by hundreds, THANKS!

If you aren't involved in the Dewey Beach Bloom project, you should be! Marketing Committee member Patrice Gancie has done an outstanding job getting the project up and running. See page 7 for more.

Enjoy the warmer weather,

*-Bill*



# PARKING

## in Dewey Beach



We admit, learning the parking system in Dewey hasn't always been easy. However, Summer 2024 brings fresh changes to town, and we're making parking easier than ever. Which parking option should you choose?

# 20



Say goodbye to confusing parking zones. Permits are valid everywhere except coin meters.

# 24



Park by the hour everywhere in town. No more searching for hourly parking zones.

Here for the  
Long Haul

If you'll be spending as much time as possible in Dewey, we recommend a Seasonal Parking Permit! Property owners, business owners, and Dewey business employees qualify for discounts on seasonal hangtags. Seasonal permits are transferrable - move them from car to car as you wish.

Not a fan of the hangtag? Try a virtual permit. Purchase online, and connect your permit to up to 8 vehicles. Only 1 registered vehicle may utilize the permit at a time, and discounts do not apply to virtual permits.

More information on page 4!

Here for  
Vacation

Here for the week? Snag a Weekly Permit at the automated kiosk outside of Town Hall. The kiosk is available 24/7. Weekly permits are \$100.

Here for the weekend? A \$55 Weekend Permit will have you covered from Friday morning to Monday at 10am. Stop by the automated kiosk at Town Hall to purchase.

Need some help? Town Hall staff is available Monday - Friday 8am - 5pm with weekend hours during the summer season. Our parking officers are also on patrol to help answer your questions.

Here for  
a Day

Park for a full 24 hours with a Daily Permit for \$30. Grab the daily permit right from your phone with the [Park Mobile app](#), or visit the automated kiosk at Town Hall.

You can also park by the hour anywhere in town! Use the Park Mobile app on your phone, or pay the old-fashioned way at a coin meter in select locations. Hourly parking is \$3.50/hr.

Need some help? Town Hall staff is available Monday - Friday 8am - 5pm with weekend hours during the summer season. Our parking ambassadors are also on patrol to help answer your questions.

## PRO TIPS

Staying for the day or longer? Your permit enables you to stay in one spot for the duration of your purchase - there is no need to move your vehicle. At 1 mile long and 2 blocks wide, the entire town of Dewey is walkable! You'll notice many locals also get around town by scooter, skateboard, or bike. Bike racks are available throughout town.

Visiting neighboring Rehoboth while you're in town? Park once in Dewey, and enjoy a ride on the open-air Jolly Trolley to the Rehoboth Boardwalk and back again. You'll spend more time enjoying the beach, and less time searching for parking. [Click here](#) for schedules and route map.

Looking to see more of our area? Avoid the hassle of traffic and jump on the [Dart Beach Bus](#)!

Parking is free on Mondays from 5:00p to 11:00p (excluding major holidays)!

# PARKING

*in Dewey Beach*



Are you a frequent visitor to Dewey Beach throughout the summer season? Save on parking fees by purchasing a seasonal parking permit. Choose the option that's best for you - either a virtual permit, or a hangtag.



# SEASONAL PARKING PERMITS

## Virtual Parking Permit

Virtual parking permits are used in lieu of a physical hangtag. These permits are connected to the license plate number on your vehicle. This is a great option for families, groups, or businesses that usually share one transferrable hangtag - never worry about forgetting to move the hangtag to your vehicle! Virtual parking permits are also a great choice for convertibles or motorcycles, where a hangtag isn't ideal. Register up to eight vehicles on your parking portal. Only one of the registered vehicles may park in town at a time - any additional vehicles will be ticketed. Virtual permits are priced at \$300 for the season. Discounts are not applicable for virtual permits at this time. [Click here to purchase your virtual parking permit!](#)

## Hangtag Parking Permit

This is a physical hangtag that is displayed from your rearview mirror. Hangtags are fully transferrable from one vehicle to another. Hangtags are priced at \$300 for the season. The following discounts apply:

Dewey Beach Property Owners: Up to 2 seasonal parking permits priced at \$175 each.

Dewey Beach Business Owners: Up to 2 seasonal parking permits priced at \$175 each.

Dewey Beach Business Employees: 1 seasonal parking permit priced at \$225. Must show proof of employment (employment letter or paystub).

Out-of-Town Business Licensed in Dewey Beach: Up to 2 seasonal parking permits at \$225 each.

Parking hangtags are available for purchase at Town Hall. There is no rush to acquire your permit. Discounts are applicable all season long, and we will not run out of permits.

# WHERE TO PARK

Parking permits, whether they are seasonal, daily, weekly, or weekend, are valid in all spaces throughout town except coin meters. Coin meters are most often located right outside of restaurants and shops. Do not park in front of a coin meter with a permit, or you will be ticketed. These spaces are for hourly parking only.

Can't find a place to park? Certain areas are "high traffic" during specific times. The north end of town is strictly residential, typically with more narrow streets and less parking availability on the ocean side. Parking can be difficult here during peak beach hours in the late morning and early afternoon. The center of town is where most retail shops and restaurants are located, and parking may be more difficult here during lunch rush or evening hours. Consider avoiding parking in busy areas at peak times. Dewey is highly walkable, with pedestrian crosswalks marked throughout town. We encourage you to park a block or two away from your desired location - enjoy the salt air, see the sights, hear the waves - and spend less time circling town in search of ideal parking.

# LICENSING



The payment portal for business licenses will open on April 1st. The new license year begins May 1st. Any business that plans to operate in town from May 1, 2024 through April 30, 2025 must obtain a license prior to starting work.



Online payment for rental licenses opens on April 1st. If you plan to rent your property between May 1, 2024 and April 30, 2025, you must first obtain a rental license. Paying by check? You may submit your forms by mail now for processing April 1st.



If you rented your property between October 1st and March 30th, your accommodations tax is due by April 15th. If you owe accommodations tax, you will not receive your rental license for 2024-2025 until it is paid.

## Questions?

We're here to help!

[contact us!](#)

# AVAILABLE NOW!

## Online Bonfire Booking

### AVOID THE LINES

Enjoy more time on the beach without having to visit Town Hall in person. Book your bonfire and submit payment online. Reminder, we allow one bonfire per street per evening. All set up and breakdown rules still apply! If you would like to do a bonfire on a holiday, including Memorial Day Weekend, 4th of July, or Labor Day, we recommend you book early, as these dates fill up quickly.

Property owners may still book in person to receive a discounted rate.

[MORE INFO >>](#)



### BOOK WITH A VENDOR

While the town does not provide bonfire services directly, we do have preferred vendors that are well-versed in bonfire setup and breakdown. Please check with your vendor prior to booking your bonfire online - some vendors will handle the booking for you, and also provide additional services such as chair and table rental.

The town is not responsible for vendor services. Each vendor will have their own booking and cancellation requirements.

[MORE INFO >>](#)





# thank you

Thanks to your kindness and generosity, the Dewey in Bloom committee received sponsorships for 28 planter boxes to be placed throughout town. We're excited to unveil an even more beautiful Dewey Beach this spring and summer!

Did you miss out on sponsoring a planter? We are still collecting donations in any amount to be used towards the purchase of additional plants and flowers.

We're currently assigning volunteers to help care for the plants throughout the spring and summer season. This is a great opportunity to get outside, get involved, and help your community! We're also recruiting help for Planting Day, tentatively scheduled for May 4th. We'll be placing the boxes throughout town, and dropping in the soil and plants. We'd love for you to get involved!

[volunteer today!](#)

planting day   
may 4th 



# Dewey's Gen Z

It's been a tradition for many years... after prom or graduation, teenagers make their way to Dewey Beach for a long weekend of fun with friends. However, many arrive without adult supervision, which often presents problems for property owners, businesses, and our police force. Despite this, our main concern is the safety of our most vulnerable visitors - the kids. Some parents are aware of Dewey's culture and enjoy the nightlife themselves from time to time. However, others see Dewey as simply a tiny beach town where they feel safe sending their teens out alone, unaware of local legislation that prohibits minors being out late at night.

We believe education is key, so we're here to break it down! We encourage you to share the information we're providing here with your kids, other parents, friends, or school administration to spread the word. We want to work together with the public to ensure that everyone knows the rules, and our "Dewey Kids" can enjoy our area safely.

## DEWEY AFTER DARK

Part of Dewey's longstanding culture is our exciting nightlife. Who doesn't love a warm summer night spent popping in and out of local restaurants, listening to live music, dancing, and capping off the evening with a late-night snack? This nightlife attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors every weekend during the summer, and our otherwise sleepy beach town is flooded with people from all over the world. Make no mistake, after dark, Dewey Beach is an "adult town." The sidewalks are busy throughout the evening, and crowd control becomes a factor. Late night eateries are bustling, and rideshares are ducking in and out of town throughout the night. The atmosphere is dominated by the "over 21 crowd."



## BARS & RESTAURANTS

After 10:00pm, many restaurants in town will begin to cater to the older crowd, and will deny entry to anyone under 21. Restaurant owners have become accustomed to the Dewey nightlife, and take all precautions to prevent anyone underage from entering their establishments, utilizing enhanced security and ID scanners. Bartenders are also responsible for ensuring their patrons are 21 and over, and will double-check IDs even after a person has been granted entry. Simply put, our business owners and workers take their responsibility seriously. During the daytime hours, the variety of establishments to enjoy is vast, and we encourage everyone, of all ages, to try out all of the eateries and restaurants! However, if you are under 21, know that your late-night options are limited here in Dewey.



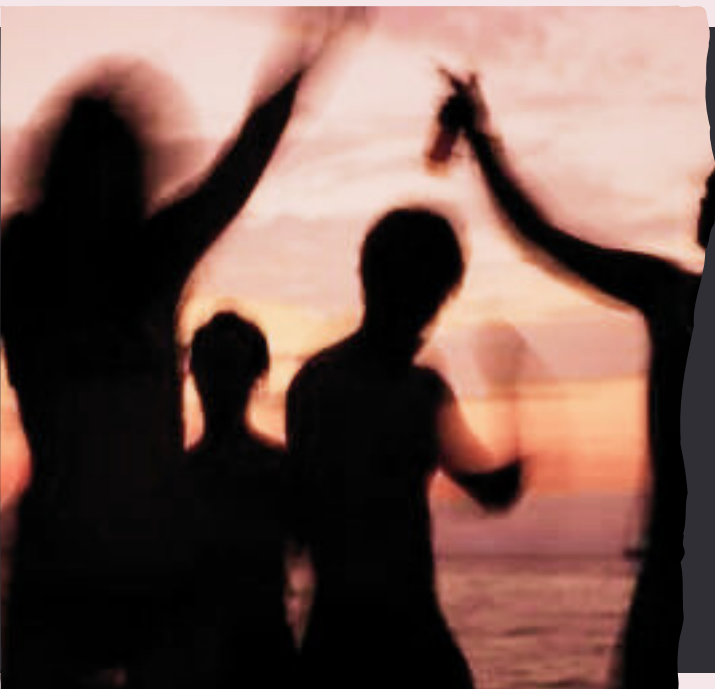
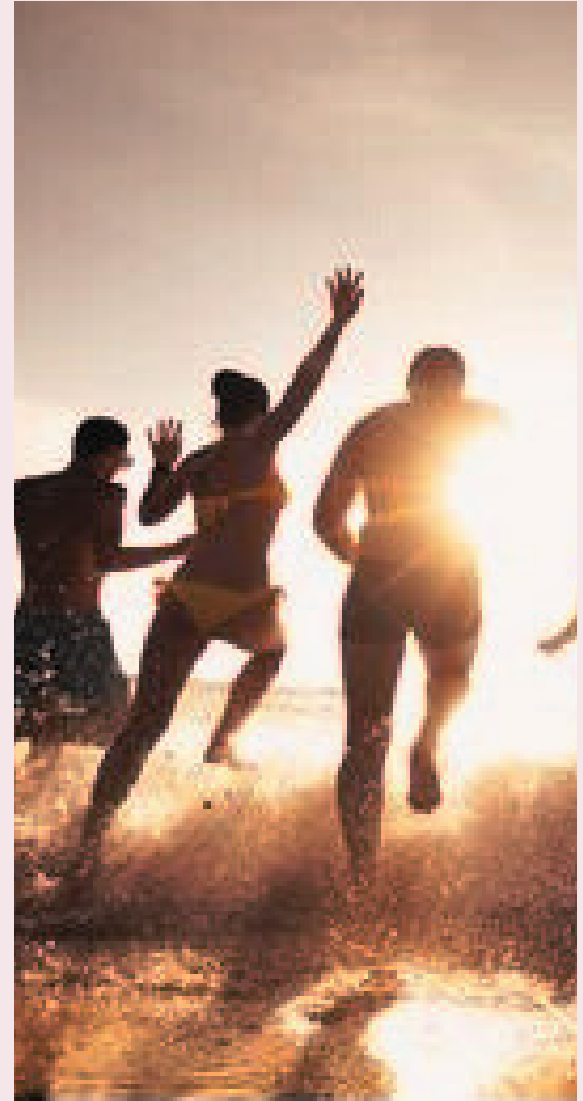
# Police Chief's Message

As you help plan your high school teens "Senior Beach Week," what should you know? Well, most teen-friendly businesses like mini golf, the surf shops or souvenir shops close by 11 p.m. The few pizza shops or other small eateries become the default places for the kids to loiter, causing large stagnant gatherings that overflow parking lots and are a catalyst for fights and disorderly behavior. Bars and restaurants that serve alcohol restrict admittance to patrons 21 years and older. Often times underage kids are at a loss for structured activities and they end up loitering outside bars and other restricted venues. Some bring alcohol in back packs and gather on the beach. Our officers are directed by me when appropriate to: Educate, Warn, Enforce when practicable. But, often times teens fueled by alcohol create a multitude of bad behaviors that result in contacts with my officers.

This is most prevalent during June as our "Junebugs" come to town, and usually continues through mid-July. Often times these teens coordinate large gatherings via social media. Like other beach towns, we are a relatively small compliment of officers, which can be quickly swamped with calls for service by homeowners and business owners. The complaints are usually the same: public drinking, public urination, loitering, fights, and disorderly conduct.

So, what's the alternative? Well if you are on vacation with the teen, help structure their activities and refrain from them having plans in Dewey after 11 pm. If they are on their own during their visit educate them about the 11 pm curfew that is in place and enforced 7 nights a week. Let them know that nearby Rehoboth has many options for them like Funland, the boardwalk and plenty of walk-up dining options and public bathrooms. Midway has movies, go-karts, and mini golf.

We want your families to visit and have a great time. But, we want you to be educated about what entertainment options are available to your underage teens. Our police officers know that we have unique circumstances policing a resort town. The Dewey Beach Police Department sends our officers to surrounding schools to educate our young visitors prior to their arrival. We are increasing our outreach to our prospective visitors to educate them to the do's and don'ts of a fun, successful vacation.



## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Nightly curfew for 17 years old and younger is in effect every day from 11 pm- 5 am
- Open alcohol is illegal in public areas (sidewalk/street) for all ages
- Possession of alcohol is illegal for persons under 21 years of age, regardless if opened or closed
- Providing alcohol to a minor is illegal
- Cannabis consumed in public or by persons under 21 years of age is illegal
- Underage house parties involving alcohol and/or cannabis is grounds for immediate eviction from property and termination of the lease agreement
- Persons that refuse to vacate an area after being advised by police are subject to arrest
- Alcohol is prohibited on the beach by all individuals during the summer season

# 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](#) 



## Movies on the Beach

The Monday Movies on the Beach schedule is here!

Which movie are you most excited to see?

[READ MORE](#) 



## Local Events

The Rehoboth-Dewey Chamber of Commerce will keep you updated on all area events!

[READ MORE](#) 



## Dewey Business Partnership

Spring has sprung! Keep up with the Dewey Business Partnership to learn about exciting events right here in Dewey!

[READ MORE](#) 

# News Brief

The Dewey Beach Police Department is gearing up for Summer 2024! Last month we officially welcomed two new members, Officer Colby Buchert and Officer Dylan Dowling. Be sure to check out the [DBPD website](#), and follow on [Facebook](#) for the latest updates.



## Upcoming Meetings

- April 10th - Charter & Code Review Committee
- April 11th - Investment Committee
- April 12th - Town Council
- April 13th - Climate Change Committee

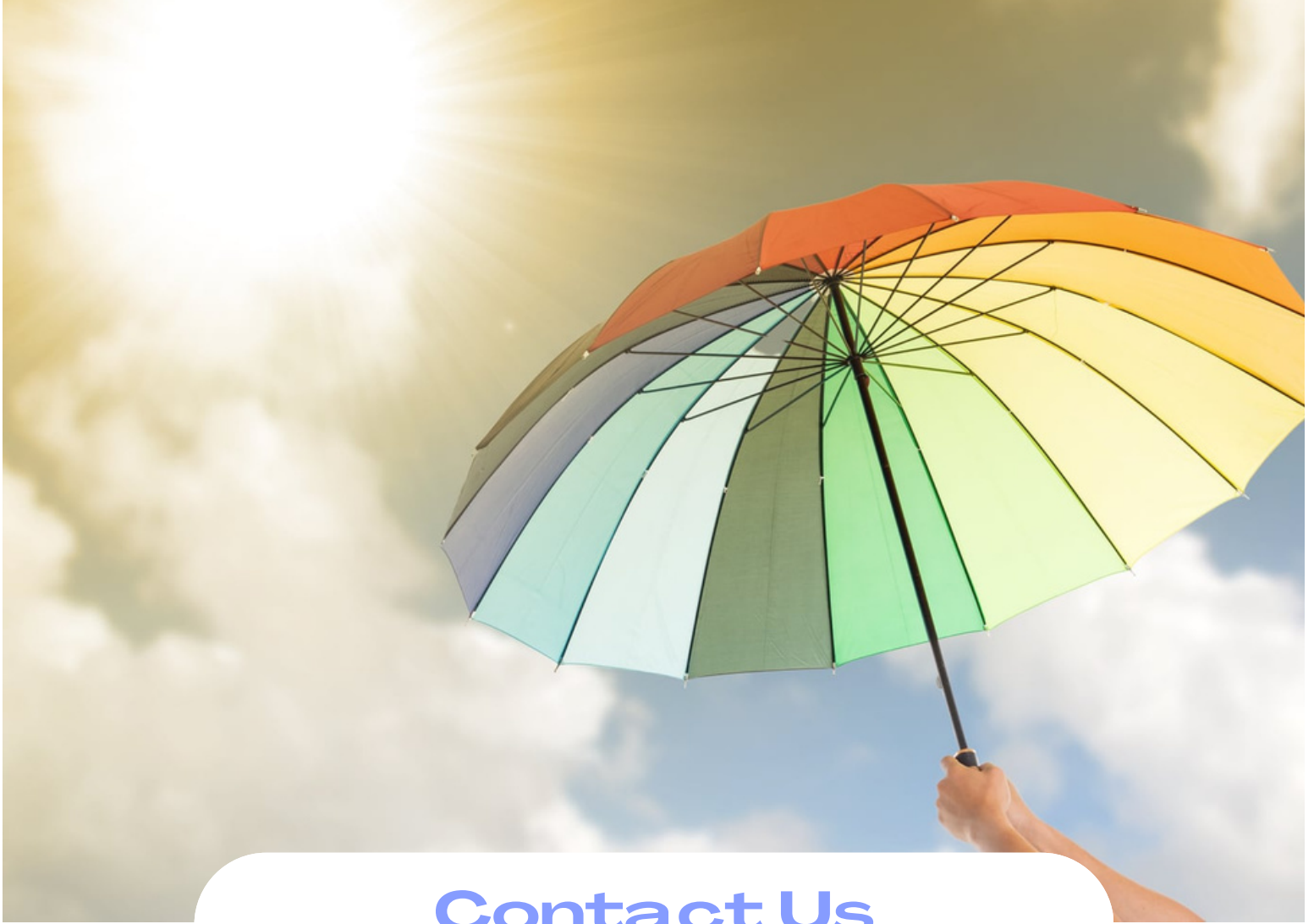
MEETING CALENDAR & AGENDAS



Paving of state-owned streets is scheduled to begin April 15th, starting at the second block of Chesapeake Street and continuing down Bayard Ave to Bellevue Street. The contractors have a hard-stop date of May 3rd. Paving will resume after Labor Day. "No Parking" signs will be placed on affected streets the day before paving is to begin. Driveway marking will be done after paving is complete.

Reminder that this project is not operated by the Town, and any concerns should be directed to DeIDOT at (302)853-1330.





## Contact Us

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

Visit the Town  
Website

View the Staff  
Directory

Follow us on  
Facebook