



AUGUST 2023

# DELAWARE'S FAVORITE PLAYGROUND

Official Newsletter of The Town of Dewey Beach

## Champions of the Ocean

Some of us were just made for the sea! In this issue we salute those who ride, fight, or conquer the waves, including those who call the ocean home.

Dewey's rolling waves can certainly be an unrelenting force - but beach lovers share a common respect and adoration for the beauty and peace that comes with the tides. Whether you're the type to dive right in, or are content to stay on the sand and admire the waves from afar, join us in celebrating our shared love for the sea!



## This Issue

Town Manager's Update  
PAGE 02

Dewey's Favorite Sport  
PAGE 04

Beach Patrol Fundraiser  
PAGE 05

Annual Skimboarding  
Competition  
PAGE 06

Election Update  
PAGE 08

The True Locals  
PAGE 09

Lifeguard Spotlight  
PAGE 10

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# Town Manager's Update

We are more than halfway through Summer and the beach is looking great, we had amazing fireworks during the 4th of July celebration, folks are enjoying the new outside dining areas, and the waters of the ocean and bay have been lovely. Dewey Beach really is a special place.

The Chief and I want to keep the Town moving in the right direction. Our number one priority is the well-being and safety of our guests and residents. To continue to move in the right direction, the Chief is asking to hire 3 full time police officers for our town. The Chief provided justification for these additional officers at the Town Council Meeting July 21st (you can watch on [YouTube](#)).

I agree with the Chief and her justification for the officers.

In addition, my concerns include:

- The high number of service calls, fights, and a slow response time
- The high number of visitors, sometimes over 20,000
- 15 restaurants/bars/taverns in a half mile space
- 6 of those restaurants/bars will be open at least 10 months of the year, drawing more visitors
- A major hotel open year-round drawing conventions, weddings, and large groups of guests
- The overindulgence of alcohol and a very active nightlife
- Close proximity to Rehoboth Beach and their yearly events/functions drawing large crowds
- Several guns seized this year, one with an extended magazine
- A very busy dual highway in the middle of town connecting all of the coastal towns in Delaware to Ocean City with as many as 40,000 cars a day

Our current number of Dewey Beach Police Officers is 10. The number of police officers in other coastal towns are as follows:

- Bethany Beach 12
- Fenwick Island 7
- Lewes 15
- Ocean View 14
- Rehoboth Beach 19
- South Bethany 7

Additionally, none of these towns have the high number of service calls that are in direct response to our high number of visitors and Dewey's active day and night life.

I will always put public safety and service first when determining the number of town employees. I believe the 3 officers are justified.

Let's talk trash. Effective July 1, 2023, Casella Waste Systems of Vermont purchased all of GFL's Delaware, Maryland and Pennsylvania assets including LLCs, agreements, facilities, systems, staff, trucks, etc. The trash vendor for Dewey Beach will continue to operate as Waste Industries of Delaware, LLC only now doing business as Casella Waste Mid-Atlantic LLC. All previous agreements with GFL/Waste Industries remain intact and enforceable. If you have questions regarding your trash service, please call Casella directly at (302) 934-1364.

Enjoy our beautiful August in Dewey !

*Bill Zelger*



# news brief

Quick Update...  
what you need to know this month!

## DBP ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

Congratulations Luca Miller, the 2023 Dewey Beach Patrol Rookie of the Year!

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

August 4th - Special Town Council Meeting  
August 4th - Investment Committee Meeting  
August 8th - Infrastructure Committee Meeting  
August 15th - Audit Committee Meeting  
August 18th - Monthly Town Council Meeting

Stay in-the-know! Keep an eye on the town meeting [calendar](#). New meetings can be added at any time. Watch live or past meetings on our [YouTube channel](#).

We encourage the public to participate and voice their opinion at any of our Town Council or committee meetings.

## TRASH SERVICE PROVIDER

GFL/Waste Industries, our residential trash provider, **sold on July 1st to Casella.**

*Pick up days, fees, and contact information will remain the same.*

Do you have questions about trash collection, recycling, bulk pickups or valet service? Contact Casella at (302)934-1364.

## DNREC COASTAL CLEANUP

Volunteers throughout the state are encouraged to join the [2023 Delaware Coastal Cleanup](#), the annual one-day coordinated statewide trash cleanup event on Saturday, Sept. 23 from 9 a.m. to noon.

Hosted by the [Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control](#) and now in its 36th year, the event will be held at 45 sites to help keep Delaware's beaches and waterways free of trash.

[Sign up online](#) to volunteer!



## BACK TO SCHOOL!

We've got plenty of summer left to enjoy, but August marks the time that some of our Beach Patrol members will make their way back to school! We'll be working hard to ensure adequate coverage of the beaches through the Labor Day holiday next month. For our lifeguards leaving us this month, thank you for your service to the Town. We hope to see you next summer!

# skimology

[skim-ol-uh-jee]

*noun*

the study of Dewey's favorite sport



the basics



Picture the maneuverability of skateboarding, with the aerial skills of snowboarding, combined with the wave riding of surfing, and you've got skimboarding.

Rather than paddling out into the ocean to catch waves back into shore, skimboarders utilize the "skim" of water that is left when a wave recedes. Stop by Dewey Beach at any given time and you'll likely notice a few kids with boards standing by the surf, watching the water, waiting for the perfect time to toss their board onto the skim. When the skim meets an incoming wave, this is the perfect opportunity to show off aials, 360s, and other tricks. In competition, scoring is based on a multitude of factors, including difficulty, completion, style, control, and length of the ride.

Though there is a strong skim following here on the east coast, the sport actually got it's start in Hawaii, where kids would pick up pieces of broken surfboard along the beach and use them to skim along the shoreline in shallow water. Since then, the boards have evolved to the colorful, customized foam core boards that we see today.

the dewey connection



While there are times that Dewey sees some significant waves (local surfers usually prefer the winter for the best waves), conditions aren't always favorable for intermediate or high-level surfing. Skimboarding, however, can be enjoyed any time, and Dewey's typical low, slow-rolling waves make for a great location to give it a try.

The success and popularity of Dewey's skimboarding community can be largely credited to Harry Wilson, who started selling his own Sandpiper Skimboards in the mid 70's right here in Dewey. He's witnessed and participated in the evolution of not just the board itself, but the sport as a whole.

While skimboarding was starting to pick up speed in Hawaii and California, Wilson put Delaware on the map with his creation of the East Coast Skimboard Championships in 1982. He later formed Skim USA, which connected local skimboarders with the larger competition circuit happening on the west coast. While Skim USA has since changed hands, we have Wilson to thank for getting the Dewey skim wave rolling.

the culture



Perhaps the best part of skimboarding is the friendly, welcoming culture. Skimboarders have a way of finding each other and making this otherwise individual sport a team effort, where tips are shared and lifelong friendships are made.

It's not uncommon to see young kids here in Dewey on vacation, learning from the local pros who skim the beach daily. Skimboarding is a relatively inexpensive sport, requiring only a board and a desire to learn a new skill to get started!

While the local skimboarders are happy to help you get started, taking private or group lessons is a great way to begin, or enhance your vacation experience here in Dewey. For information on local skimboarding instruction, contact the [Rehoboth-Dewey Chamber of Commerce](#).

Don't forget, you can also get your feet wet at the Zap/Pro Am Skimboarding Championships! More on page 5!

# USLA



# National Lifeguard Championships



## OUR LOCAL HEROES

Each summer, we rely on our lifeguards to keep Dewey Beach safe and secure for our residents and visitors. The Beach Patrol provides many services for the town:

- Open water and bay rescue
- Emergency medical services
- Marine, avian, and reptile stranding, safety education, and rescue support
- Trash and debris removal and clean up
- Beach event management
- Beach ordinance enforcement
- Educational outreach
- Community outreach programs
- Night patrol (as needed)

The DBP not only guards our beaches, but they're often one of the first to appear on scene in the event of a medical emergency elsewhere in town. The DBP, lead by Captain Todd Fritchman, provides critical services to the public while demonstrating outstanding leadership and teamwork.

## SHOW YOUR SUPPORT!

Every August, the Dewey Beach Patrol organizes competition teams to travel to the annual USLA National Lifeguard Championships to represent the Sussex County Chapter alongside lifeguards from our neighboring towns. This event provides a great opportunity for team-building, networking and of course, fun and exciting competition! But the DBP doesn't just compete, they win! The Sussex County chapter, as well as the DBP specifically, consistently rank among the top competitors each year.

Show your appreciation for the hard work of our Beach Patrol by helping them get to the USLA National Lifeguard Championships! You can donate any amount via our online fundraiser, and even send a message of good luck to all of our guards competing this year. Donations are used for competition fees, travel, food, and lodging expenses. We want to ensure all team members that qualify for the competition can attend without the burden of out-of-pocket expenses.

**DONATE TODAY!**

2023 USLA NATIONAL LIFEGUARD CHAMPIONSHIPS - AUGUST 10-12 - VIRGINIA BEACH, VA

# SKIM USA



The culmination of the Skim USA tour each year, the Zap Pro/Am of Skimboarding is where the top amateur skimboarders of the world gather to vie for a spot on the podium at the World Championships of Skimboarding.

This year is the 41st anniversary of the contest, which is a three-day event that has live music, great food, and an amazing skimboarding competition, all in the heart of the skimboarding capital of the East Coast, Dewey Beach!



*Click  
for  
more  
info!*

**Friday, August 11th through  
Sunday, August 13th**

**On the Beach at McKinley  
Avenue**

While you can catch skimboarding action anytime here in Dewey, the Zap Pro/Am Championship is a must-see to learn more about the sport, meet the pros, and watch world-class skimboarding athletes ride the waves to gold!



There's still time to join the fun! The Junior Lifeguard Program continues through mid-August!

Each summer, the Dewey Beach Patrol invites kids ages 6 through 16 the opportunity to join the Junior Lifeguard Program. Participants learn everything that it takes to be a member of the Beach Patrol - lifesaving history, lifeguard qualification and training, health, fitness, and safety, the marine environment, water surveillance, rescue equipment, weather hazards, the surf beach, and more. The number of participants grows each summer, and many of our kids return to participate each year. Some of our current lifeguards were inspired to join the Dewey Beach Patrol after participating in the Junior Lifeguard Program! Whether our Junior Lifeguards decide to pursue a career as a lifeguard or EMT, or enter another field, we're sure that this program is helping to create...

# Future Leaders.

# TOWN ELECTION

# Update

## ARE YOU REGISTERED?

It's up to *you* to choose your local leaders! Our goal is for all eligible individuals to have the opportunity to vote.

There is still time to register – but don't delay! Voter registration for the 2023 election will close at 5:00pm on August 24th.

[CHECK YOUR STATUS](#)

**SEPTEMBER 23RD**

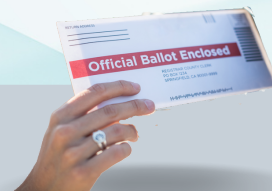
**DEWEY BEACH LIFESAVING STATION  
CAST YOUR VOTE FROM 10A - 6P**

## WHAT'S NEW?



### CANDIDATES

Three candidates have filed for election. There is still time to [file](#). Deadline is August 24th at 5:00pm.



### ABSENTEE VOTING

You can request an absentee ballot right from our website! Vote by mail, or vote absentee at [Town Hall](#).



### CANDIDATES FORUM

The Dewey Beach Civic League will host a [Candidates Forum](#) at the Dewey Beach Lifesaving Station on August 26th at 4:00pm.



# THE TRUE

# Locals



click for more info!

There are no cooler Delaware Beach locals than our resident marine life! Some of the most fascinating species in our area are members of the shark population. Before you turn the page in fear, hear us out.

*Shark presence indicates a healthy ecosystem.* If native shark species are found, that means smaller prey is also calling the area home - both of which are signs of a healthy, balanced ecosystem. A clean ocean where marine life is thriving is always a good sign!

*Sharks share their home.* We probably wouldn't be so agreeable if another species took an uninvited stroll through our house. Thankfully, sharks are much more laid back about humans entering their space. The most commonly found sharks in our waters - quite frankly - want nothing to do with people. Shark sightings are rare close to shore, but this doesn't mean they aren't there. They're just content keeping a healthy distance from us.

As many as 62 different species of sharks can be found in the Delaware area, but some are much more common than others! Learning and sharing with others about the resident marine life can help dispel fears surrounding these exceptional Delaware "locals!"

Smooth Dogfish



While this shark can potentially grow to 5 feet in length, they're more commonly seen at 2-3 feet once fully mature. Dogfish are unique from other sharks in that they have 10 rows of flat, blunt teeth which are well-suited for grinding up their main food source - crustaceans. However, dogfish are opportunistic feeders and will scavenge along the bottom looking for anything remotely edible, including trash! Just another reason to avoid littering - this shark may just mistake it for a meal!

Spiny Dogfish



This shark is very similar to the Smooth Dogfish, but as its name suggests, it has two sharp spines in front of each dorsal fin, as well as white spots down the length of the body. Also a smaller shark, Spiny Dogfish are unique in that they sometimes travel in schools, unlike most shark species that gather only in certain circumstances. While dogfish don't pose a real threat to people, we do pose a threat to them, as they are fished commercially, mostly for sale in Europe.

Sandbar Shark



Despite their impressive size (maxing out at around 8 feet), Sandbar Sharks are deemed one of the safer sharks to swim with, and are common attractions at aquariums. Sandbar Sharks have a very tall dorsal fin, though you'll likely never see one break the surface - they're commonly feeding on fish and rays near the bottom of the ocean or bay. Sharks are often most active at dawn, dusk or nighttime, so avoid the water during times of low light to give them plenty of space for feeding.

Sand Tiger Shark



Never to be confused with the Tiger Shark, the Sand Tiger Shark is a large, docile species that trolls along the bottom of the ocean in the surf zone. The Sand Tiger is unmistakable, with pointy teeth that protrude out, even when its mouth is closed. It is possible (though not probable) to see a Sand Tiger near the surface from time to time, as they're the only shark known to breach and "gulp air" which helps them to retain more buoyancy in the water.

# LIFEGUARD SPOTLIGHT

## How did you get involved in lifeguarding?

My family has been involved in lifeguarding my whole life. My dad and his brothers are all Rehoboth Beach Patrol alumni, and my grandfather Frank is a former RBP Captain. As a kid I spent most summer mornings hanging around the RBP shack with my siblings and my uncle, so I was always around this job and learned to love it. Eventually my older sister moved to Dewey Beach Patrol as the first female Lieutenant, and the rest of us followed in her footsteps. I joined as soon as I met the age requirement in 2014.

## What makes Dewey Beach a fun or unique place to work?

For me it has to be the people. All of the connections and friendships I've made these past years have been tremendous. It would be very difficult for me to leave, as this place has become a second home to me.

## Any advice for kids with aspirations of joining the DBP?

Well, first, learn to swim! Get comfortable with being in the ocean, and also learn about the town and our beaches. It's also never too early to start taking care of your health and fitness - staying in good physical shape is crucial for lifeguards. It's really important to be a leader, too, so learning those leadership skills early is great. And of course, you've got to join us for the Junior Lifeguard Program!



## SENIOR LIEUTENANT HANK COVELESKI SHARES HIS LIFELONG PASSION FOR LIFEGUARDING

## What accomplishment are you most proud of?

Training the new guards is always really rewarding. It's nice to see the rookies learn the ropes and be a part of helping them to succeed. I really enjoy working with the Junior Lifeguards too, just any opportunity to train the next generation of guards is important work. In the off season I work for the Cape Henlopen School District as a para-professional, and I'm proud of the work I've done there so far too.

## What else are you doing when not on patrol?

Spending time with family, coaching or playing lacrosse. I played for Team Poland at the Heritage Cup over Memorial Day weekend this year. I definitely want to travel more though, I'd love to see Japan, or do an African safari. I'd take a trip to space if the opportunity presented itself!

## Just for fun... if you could be one marine animal, what would you be and why?

Have to go with the orca. They're communal, I like how they're always working as a team, they're incredibly intelligent, athletic, and, have to admit they look pretty cool.

## If you could share one safety precaution for people visiting the beach, what would it be?

Keep an eye on the kids! We get calls over the radio throughout the day that a child went missing on the beach. Parents are talking and enjoying themselves, and the kids start playing and before you know it, they've wandered off. Thankfully we've always successfully reunited kids with their parents without incident, but it can be really scary for the family.

## What is your favorite time of the summer?

The week of 4th of July. The beach is a sea of red, white and blue, everyone is feeling patriotic and the community really comes together. It's busy, which I like, there's nice weather, and all of my friends and family are in town. And, bonus, there's barbecues.

# 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](#) 



# Contact Us

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