



JANUARY 2024

DELAWARE'S FAVORITE PLAYGROUND

Official Newsletter of The Town of Dewey Beach



Let The Countdown Begin!

After the countdown to the new year has ended, we start the clock again in anticipation of our favorite time of year - 140 days until Memorial Day Weekend kicks off, in case you're counting with us! Until then, we're cozying up for the winter here in Dewey, which is a great time to bundle up for a stroll through town, and stop in to our local eateries to visit with friends. More businesses remain open during the winter than ever before here in Dewey, so come on out and brave the cold with us!

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Braving the icy cold ocean at The Dewey Dunk!

[Click here to subscribe!](#)

TOWN MANAGER'S

Update

As we begin the new year, I hope you will join our town team making Dewey Beach the best small beach town in the United States. The town is looking great going into 2024, with multiple projects scheduled for the year.

- All State streets and avenues in Dewey Beach will be repaved starting with Collins Ave to Cullen Street. The work will start in mid-March and should end before May 1st. I'm also attempting to have the town-owned streets of Jersey, Carolina, and Chesapeake paved during this time. It will only be the first two blocks of each of these streets.
- All driveway entrances will be re-marked after the paving is completed. As a reminder, all properties are allowed either two 10' or one 20' marked driveway entry.
- To help with storm water management in the town, the Read Ave bayside project should start in mid-January and the relining of the storm water pipes on Dickinson and Collins Ave bayside should start in February. These projects should help mitigate flooding when completed. Work will also begin on the Bayard Ave Pump Station cleaning and resealing the two outfall pipes and correcting a separation in the station wall.
- We will continue to trim back trees and bushes in the town right-of-way to increase safety at intersections and clear space for public parking. Also, NO signage can be placed in the town's right-of-way. The town will be removing any signs in the right-of-way.
- The new Town Hall/Police Station/Sussex County EMS Station is moving forward. The Sussex County Council has voted and approved to provide the town with 1 million dollars towards the project to help fund the new Sussex County EMS Station. This will improve response times to critical life-threatening incidents in Dewey Beach and the surrounding coastal communities. We hope to have the new Town Hall project out to bid in late spring or early summer, and break ground in the fall of 2024.

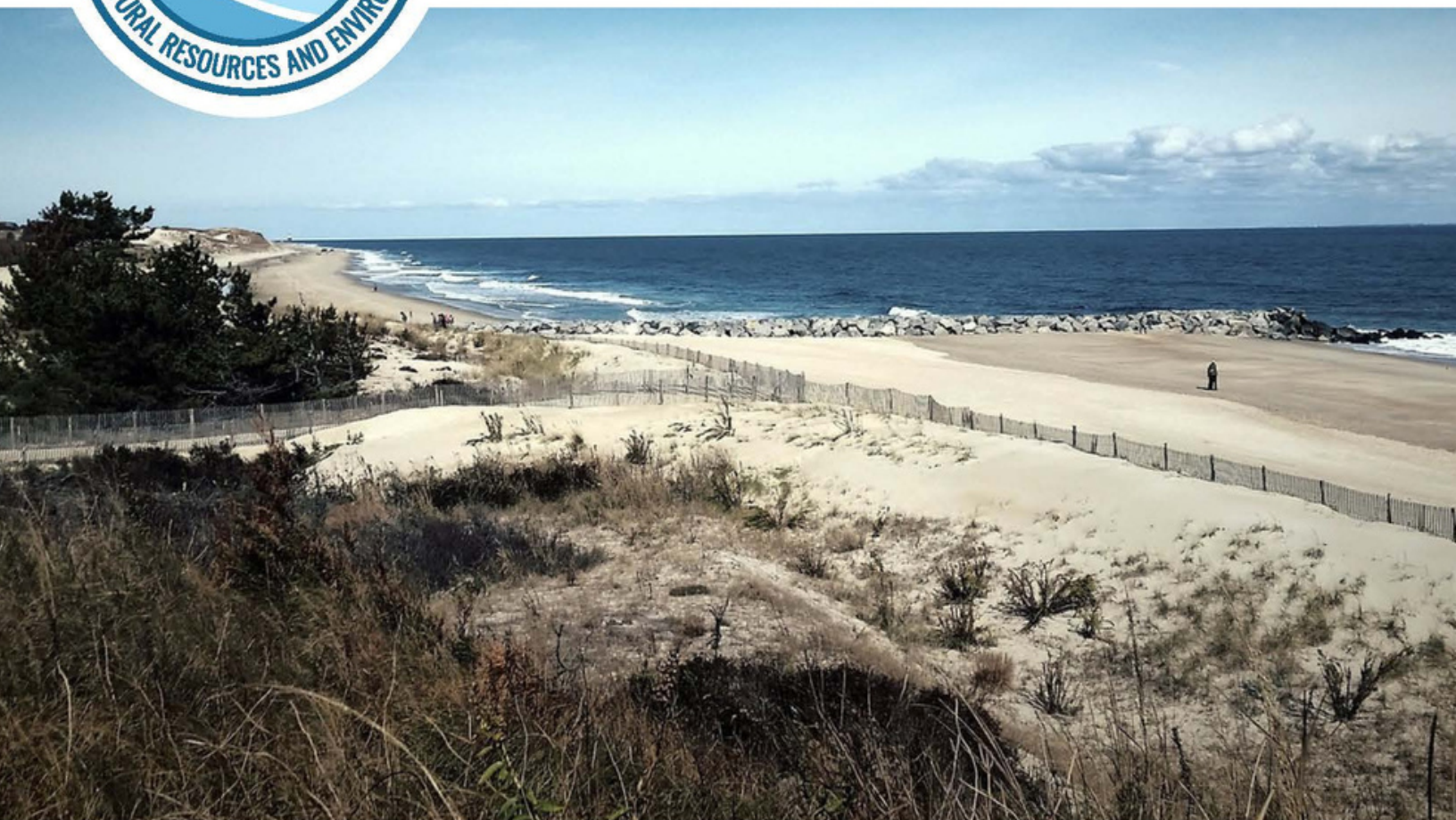
Looking forward to a great year!

-Bill





Public Meeting: Economic Analysis for Shoreline Management



Join DNREC shoreline and waterway staff to discuss the economic benefits of, and costs to maintain, healthy shorelines in Delaware.

DNREC has commissioned a study to explore the range of economic benefits provided by beach nourishment and to develop cost-share ratios needed to maintain Delaware's shorelines.

Date: Thursday, January 18, 2024

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Virtual

For more information or to register,
please visit de.gov/beachstudy



WINTER TIME TOURISTS



Many visitors to our area are surprised to know that seals are often seen here during the winter months. Colonies of 50-75 seals have been documented here in Delaware, returning each winter from Canada. Not only do they travel here for the slightly warmer waters and variety of fish and shellfish, but the latest evidence shows that they may be mating, and birthing pups right here in Delaware waters. We all share in the responsibility of keeping our winter seal population safe and healthy during their "vacation" to Dewey and surrounding areas.

There are three types of seals native to the Delaware coast, including Harbor Seals, Gray Seals, and Harp Seals.

Harbor Seals are approximately 6 feet in length and can weigh in at over 200 pounds. They are blue-gray in color, and are often seen on land.

Harp Seals range between 5 and 6 feet long and can weigh up to 300 pounds. They enjoy small fish while visiting here in Delaware before making their way to arctic waters during the summer.

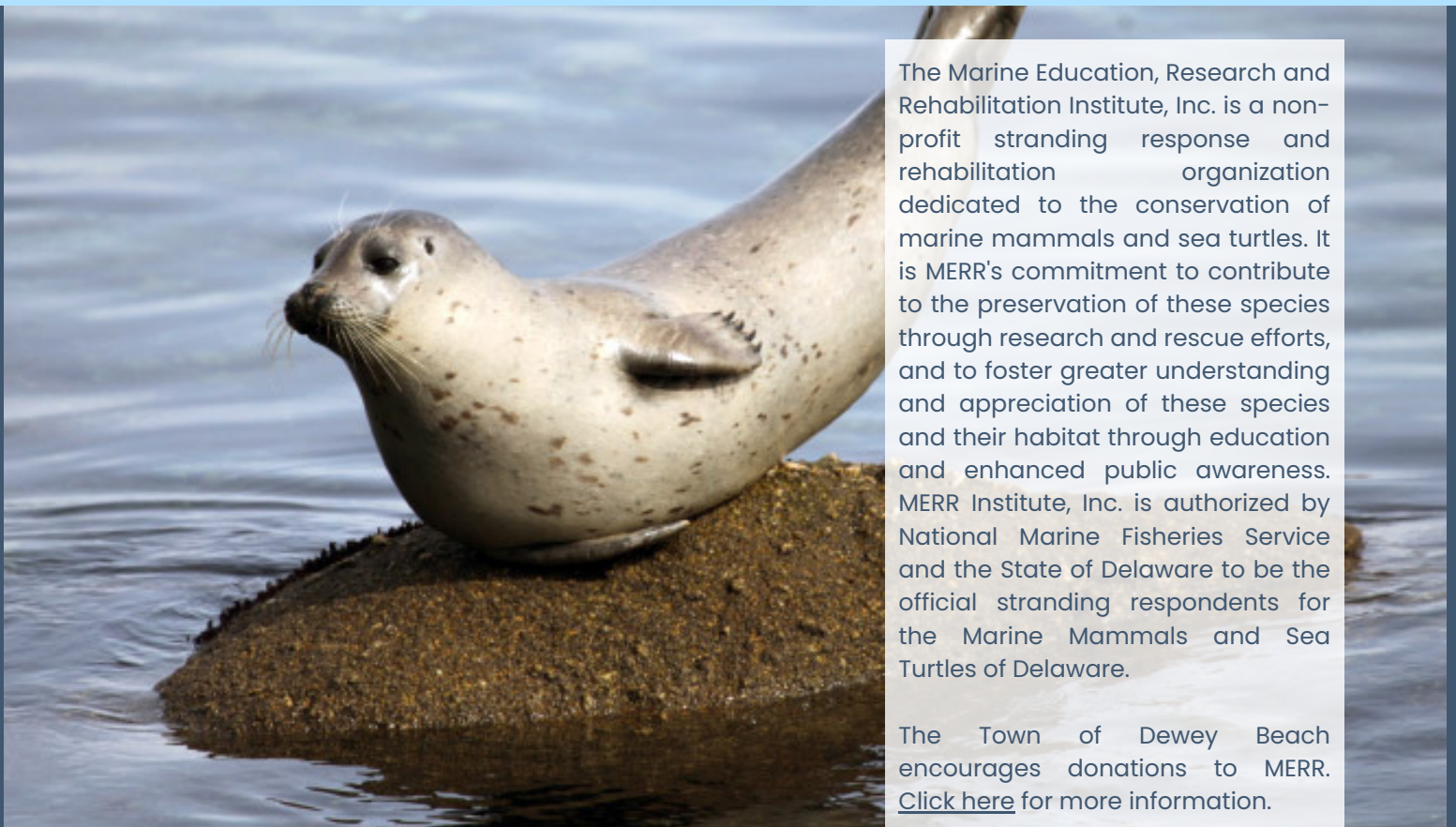
The largest of the three species, the Gray Seal, can grow up to 10 feet long and weigh 800 pounds. As their name suggests, adults are gray in color, but like the Harp Seal, pups are a fluffy white for the first three weeks of their lives.



If you see a seal on the beach, please first contact MERR Institute by calling or texting (302)228-5029.

HOW TO HELP

- Stay at least 150 feet from the seal, and encourage others to do the same. Seals are on the beach to either rest, avoid a predator (sharks), or because they are sick or hurt. Approaching a seal will likely scare it back into the water that it was avoiding for a reason!
- Seals are protected by federal law. It is illegal to harass, feed, or touch any seal.
- Dewey Beach is a popular place for visitors and residents to exercise their dogs off-leash. It is always a good idea to scan the area prior to letting your dog off-leash to ensure the safety of your pet, and wildlife.
- As cute as a seal may be, they will defend themselves and potentially bite if threatened. Seals also carry various diseases that are transmissible to humans and other animals.



The Marine Education, Research and Rehabilitation Institute, Inc. is a non-profit stranding response and rehabilitation organization dedicated to the conservation of marine mammals and sea turtles. It is MERR's commitment to contribute to the preservation of these species through research and rescue efforts, and to foster greater understanding and appreciation of these species and their habitat through education and enhanced public awareness. MERR Institute, Inc. is authorized by National Marine Fisheries Service and the State of Delaware to be the official stranding respondents for the Marine Mammals and Sea Turtles of Delaware.

The Town of Dewey Beach encourages donations to MERR. [Click here](#) for more information.



ARE YOU READY

DEWEY BEACH PATROL 2024



THE CHALLENGE AWAITS

Are you ready to be a part of a team, learn skills to benefit you for a lifetime, work for one of the top beach destinations in the country, maintain excellent physical fitness, make unforgettable memories and friendships, become a local leader, and most importantly, spend your summer making a difference and saving lives? We are looking for you!

The Dewey Beach Patrol is recruiting lifeguards and EMTs for the 2024 summer season, and we want to hear from you! Our award-winning Beach Patrol guards our beaches daily from Memorial Day through Labor Day, and also answers calls throughout the Town of Dewey Beach to assist with various emergency situations. The DBP also hosts the Junior Lifeguard and Youth Recreation programs throughout the summer season. Our lifeguards also participate (and win!) at a variety of competitions locally, regionally, and nationally!

[CONTACT US](#) 

[APPLY NOW](#) 



DOLLARS
PROVIDED IN
GIFT CARDS
FOR LOCAL
FAMILIES



TOYS
PROVIDED TO
OUR LOCAL
TOYS FOR
TOTS



ITEMS
PROVIDED TO
OUR LOCAL
ANIMAL
SHELTER

Dewey Beach has historically proven that when our community comes together, magic happens! Thank you to everyone who donated to this year's holiday fundraisers!

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](#) 



Winter Gala

Only a few tickets remain for this year's Winter Gala! We can't wait to see you at the "Safari Soiree!"

[READ MORE](#) 



2024 Events

The Rehoboth-Dewey Chamber of Commerce will keep you updated on all area events! Mark your calendars for this year's events!

[READ MORE](#) 



Plan Your Getaway

Now is the time to plan your 2024 Dewey vacation! Check out our FAQ, or contact us with questions. We can't wait to see you!

[READ MORE](#) 

It's a Win For The Dewey Dog



During last month's Town Council meeting, our Commissioners voted to expand access for dogs on the beach. Previously, dogs could enjoy the beach any time of day from September 16th through May 14th, with restricted hours during the summer season. Effective immediately, dogs will have all day access from the Sunday following Labor Day Weekend, through Friday of Memorial Day Weekend. This gives our Dewey Dogs and the people that love them a couple of extra weeks of peak weather conditions to enjoy the beach!

[CLICK FOR MORE](#)

news brief

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

HOLIDAY TREE PICKUP

Property owners who wish to dispose of their old Christmas trees may place them in the right-of-way the morning of Jan 9th for free pickup.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- January 16th, 5:30pm - Marketing Committee
- January 17th, 4:00pm - Code Committee
- January 19th, 2:00pm - Town Council
- January 29th, 6:00pm - Board of Adjustment

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.

SNOW REMOVAL

We're gearing up for winter weather! A reminder that snow removal is a shared responsibility between town maintenance staff and DeIDOT. In the event of heavy snowfall, stay up-to-date on the town Facebook page or the homepage of the town website. Please understand that we have limited maintenance staff, and snow removal is a tedious and tiring job. During excessive snowfall, please be patient, as our maintenance team will be working around the clock to keep roads as accessible as possible.

FREE PARKING CHANGES

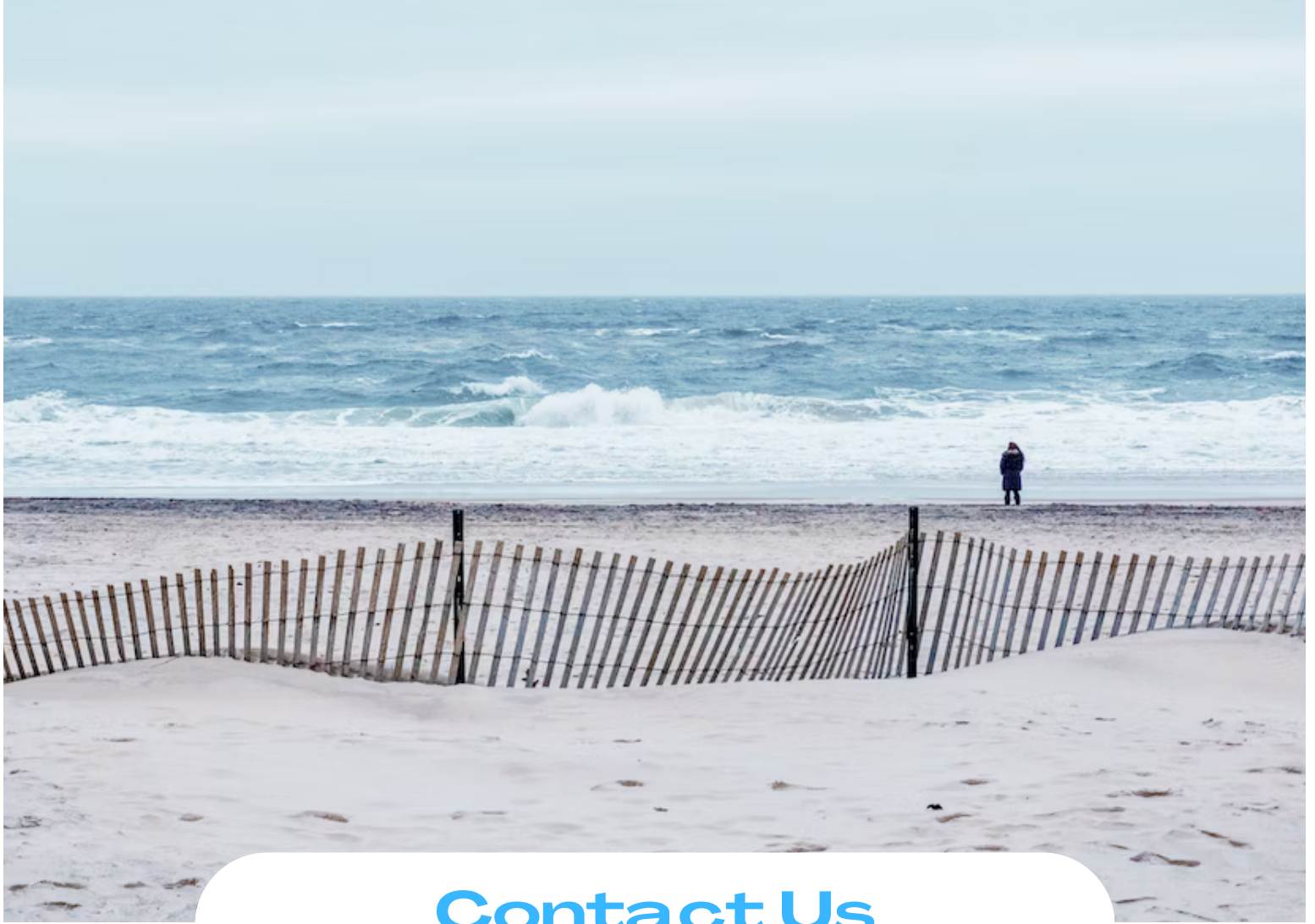
During last month's Town Council meeting, changes were made to Dewey's free parking days. Starting during the 2024 summer season, free parking is available every Monday from 5:00pm - 11:00pm, excluding holidays. For more details, check out the approved ordinance [here](#).



MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY

Town administrative offices will be closed on January 15th in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

MLK Day is the only federal holiday recognized as a Day of Service, encouraging all of us to do our part in improving our communities. For volunteer opportunities, [click here](#).



Contact Us

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Website

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