



NOVEMBER 2023

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 fundraisers, and we're assisting a variety of local charitable organizations. Plus, we're making it easier than ever for you to join in the fundraising efforts!



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Town Manager's *Update*

What a great turn out for Halloween in Dewey Beach! It was amazing to see all of the families, and especially the children, dressed in their costumes and having a great time. I want to thank all of the property owners, businesses owners, our police officers, administrative employees, volunteers, and especially Kelly Ranieri from the Dewey Business Partnership for an outstanding Halloween Night in Dewey Beach! It was a huge success!

Now that we are fully into the holiday season, the town continues to work making improvements:

- Planted over 300 flower bulbs and thousands of wildflower seeds in the center island
- Remarking and stenciling all crosswalks with "Look Twice Check Both Lanes"
- Trimming and removing some trees at the crosswalks based on advice from DeIDOT
- Trimming trees and bushes on the town's parking right of way
- Repainting the white trim on the Lifeguard Station
- New walkway installed at the Lifeguard Station

As we enter in to the cooler season here are a couple of reminders:

- Trailers and boats cannot be left in public parking spaces, as stated in the town code. Any object which is not a motor vehicle left in the public right of way shall be deemed to be abandoned, and will be removed in accordance with the law at the owner's expense. Please move your trailers and boats out of public parking spaces.
- Yard waste should not be left in the public right of way unless you have called and scheduled a removal with Casella Waste Systems (formerly GFL). To schedule a pickup please call (302)934-1364. Additionally, the town will notify and arrange with Casella a holiday tree pick up in January 2024.
- Parallel and perpendicular parking on our smaller streets can sometimes be confusing. The town will be installing signs that clearly state when parallel parking is required. If you park perpendicular in a parallel parking space, you will get a ticket. This includes parking partially on your private property, but your vehicle encroaches into the public right of way. Vehicles that are in either the 10' or 20' property owner driveways are exempt for this violation. The vehicle must be in the property owner's marked driveway area or on their private property.
- Town code states that no signage may be placed in the public right of way. There are several signs, especially in the NR district, that have been placed in the town's right of way and need to be moved. The town has the right to remove these signs out of the right of way.
- Cigarette Butt Receptacles (CBRs) were distributed to several business in town, including Dewey Beach Country Club, Woody's, Starboard, Dewey Beer Company, Highway One Maintenance Team, and Jungle Jim's Pet Care, in the hope of reducing the number of cigarette butts around town. If any other business would like a receptacle, please contact Town Hall 302-227-6363.

In the last two years, inflation has jumped by almost 10%, affecting everyone's bank accounts, including the town. In the past, we've relied heavily on transfer tax, accommodations tax, and hotel tax to make budget. As inflation, cost of living, and interest rates have increased, revenue from transfer tax and hotel tax has decreased. When I arrived almost 3 years ago, our town had some real challenges. The biggest challenge was our low employee salaries, especially for our police officers. Our employees were doing more with significantly lower pay than the surrounding beach communities. I've worked hard with the commissioners to increase our employees' salaries, so we are more in line with our neighboring towns. As we work on the 2024-2025 budget with the Budget and Finance Committee and Town Council, the town will need to increase revenue for salaries, so our full-time and part-time employees can afford to live and work in Eastern Sussex County. We are currently reviewing the possibilities of extending the parking season and/or possibly reducing one or more of the free parking nights (5pm to 11pm) on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday to raise more revenue. Changing the parking would have the least impact on our town's property owners and may raise enough revenue to keep up with inflation and the cost of living.

I hope everyone has a safe and Happy Thanksgiving.

Bill Zolger

POLICE DEPARTMENT

News & Updates



COMMITTED TO SERVICE

Our Police Department is working hard during the off-season to prepare for Summer 2024! We're also stepping up our community outreach, and want you to get to know your local police force. Read on to learn what's new in the DBPD. We hope to see you out and about this holiday season!





THANK YOU!



Thanks to generous donations from the Dewey Business Partnership, Dewey Beach Lions Club, and the Dewey Beach Civic League, the new Polaris UTV is now in service! This vehicle was a crucial addition to the department in order to answer calls on the ocean and bay beaches where other patrol vehicles can not venture. You'll also see this compact, easily maneuverable vehicle at large in-town events!

The DBPD is participating in No Shave November, a web-based, non-profit organization devoted to growing cancer awareness and raising funds to support cancer prevention, research, and education. Make a [donation](#) today to support the team!

NO SHAVE NOVEMBER



DEWEY GOES PINK

While our officers were on patrol, police department admin staff participated in this year's Dewey Goes Pink 5K Run/Walk for Breast Cancer. We honored a member of the DBPD family who is a cancer survivor - Gina, wife of PFC Planer.



When they aren't working, members of the Dewey Beach Police Department are participating in community events! On Friday, October 27th, the department provided a buffet of candy, snacks, and activity books to hundreds of trick-or-treaters. The following day, many officers supported the City of Rehoboth for their Sea Witch Festival, while others continued the candy craze by volunteering at a local trunk-or-treat event.

HALLOWEEN FESTIVITIES

Our Town Manager extends his heartfelt gratitude to the department and appreciates their willingness to donate their time to the community. Please follow the Dewey Beach Police Department on [Facebook](#) to stay up-to-date on what we're up to!

DEWEY BEACH

POLICE DEPARTMENT

K-9 Unit



Thanks to a successful grant application by Chief Speake, the department welcomes **Jasper**, a one-year-old German Shepherd. Jasper is trained in narcotics detection, trailing, obedience, and article search. Though Jasper is a hardworking K-9, he also has a goofy, friendly, welcoming personality, and is at ease in large crowds and around other dogs. When he isn't actively conducting searches with his handler, PFC Dylan Ebke, Jasper will be utilized as an ambassador for the Dewey Beach Police Department. We hope his presence around town and at special events will encourage our residents and visitors to say hello, and get to know their local police force.

Smoke is an 18-month-old Malinois/German Shepherd mix. Both breeds are common choices for police work, so we like to think that Smoke is quite the powerhouse! So far, Smoke has three true loves of his life - his handler Cpl. Carl Kurten, his work as a K-9, and his tennis ball. Like Jasper, Smoke is trained in drug detection, however, unlike his fellow K-9 officer, Smoke is also a fully-trained patrol dog. This means he is fit to protect his handler, search buildings, conduct tracks, and make criminal apprehensions.



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.

the "off" season



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.



Infrastructure Committee

This tiny town needs to safely host hundreds of thousands of visitors every summer, and it's imperative that our infrastructure can support these crowds! Members of this committee have an interest or skill set in the necessary structures or facilities to operate the town. Recently, the focus of this committee has been flood mitigation, especially bayside flooding that poses a threat to homes and businesses. The committee often hears proposals from outside engineering firms, and recommends plans to the Town Council.



Finance Committees

Our Investment, Audit, and Budget & 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 committees assist 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!





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](#) 



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 always been a major contributor to the Cape Henlopen School District Adopt-a-Family Program!

This year, the district expressed their need for gift cards for local businesses. They are accepting gift cards of any type or amount.

Support both local families and local businesses this holiday season with this gifting opportunity.

The deadline for gift card donations is December 1st. Please drop off donations to Dewey Beach Town Hall.

WHY GIFT CARDS?

These gifts keep giving long after the holidays are over! For families in financial need, having the ability to spend time together and make memories is perhaps the best gift one can receive. Enjoying dinner at a restaurant, or an afternoon at the movie theatre is a luxury for these families. All gift cards, of any amount, will be accepted and put to good use, including those for big box or grocery stores. However, we also encourage you to gift an “experience” to a local family.

Please support local Dewey Beach shops and restaurants! Some great kid-friendly ideas include:

- Surfing Lesson
- Skimboard Lesson
- Movie Theatre
- Trampoline Parks
- Water Parks
- Mini Golf
- Bowling Alleys
- Arcades
- Ice Cream/Dessert Shops
- Bookstores
- Escape Rooms





With Dewey's reputation of being a dog-friendly town, it seems fitting to serve our local pets in need!

During the colder 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 for our local shelter, Humane Animal Partners of Delaware.

HAPD also maintains a wish list of supplies that are necessary to maintain daily shelter operations. Many of these items can be picked up during a routine trip to the supermarket!

HOW TO DONATE

- Shop our [Amazon Wish List](#) and have your gifts delivered directly to Town Hall.
- Shop locally and drop off your gifts in the bins at the Town Hall/Police Station lobby at your convenience.

We're collecting items up until Christmas Day!

THE WISH LIST

- Kong dog toys, especially large sizes
- Nylabone dog toys, especially large sizes
- Benebone dog toys, especially large sizes
- West Paw Toppl dog toys, especially large sizes
- Lick mats for dogs and cats
- Slow feed bowls
- Kong Easy Treat Paste
- Cat litter
- Milkbone dog treats
- Freeze-dried dog treats
- Greenies Pill Pocket treats
- Kitchen size trash bags
- 60 gallon trash bags
- Paper towels
- Easy Cheese spray cheese
- Organic canned pumpkin (not pumpkin pie filling)
- Laundry detergent
- Dish detergent pods
- Towels
- Blankets



TOYS FOR TOTS

Created and coordinated by the Marine Corps Reserve since 1947, Toys for Tots has remained one of the most respected charities in the United States. This year, Dewey Beach joins the Sussex County/Nassau Chapter to provide toys for children this holiday season. Donation is easy! Just provide a new, unwrapped toy of your choosing. Bins are available at the Town Hall/Police Station. We're collecting toys right up until Christmas Day!



Shop
Online
Here!



Do you need some help with gift ideas? Do you want to be a part of the town toy drive but you're not in our area? No problem! We encourage you to shop our suggested items on the [Amazon wish list](#). Your gift will be delivered directly to Town Hall, and we'll be sure it's picked up by the Toys for Tots coordinator. We've added a variety of classic and modern toys for kids of all ages... at a variety of price points too! We're sure you'll find something you're excited to give this holiday 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](#) 



Tree Lighting

The annual Christmas Tree Lighting is back at Fifer's Market on November 25th! Join us to ring in the holiday season!

[READ MORE](#) 



Happy Holidays!

The Rehoboth-Dewey Chamber of Commerce will keep you updated on all area events! Mark your calendars for holiday happenings!

[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](#) 

news brief

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

ACCOMMODATIONS TAX

Did you rent your property this summer? Be sure to submit your accommodations tax! We make it easy to pay online [here](#).

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- November 7th - Marketing Committee
- November 8th - Infrastructure Committee
- November 14th - Budget & Finance Committee
- November 17th - Town Council

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.

COUNTY REASSESSMENT

Sussex County property reassessment continues, and an update regarding this project was recently released - read about it [here](#).

The town's beach assessment tax is based on the Sussex County property assessment value. Because of this, the Town Council has begun the process of researching how this could affect Dewey property owners, and what, if any, changes need to be made to this tax in the coming years to best serve the town and it's residents. We will continue to keep the public informed through town meetings and email notifications.

VETERANS DAY

Recent happenings worldwide make us that much more aware that the freedoms we enjoy are not free. Town staff extend our sincere thanks to all those who serve, and continue to serve us dutifully and faithfully.

We honor you not just on Veterans Day, but every day. Thank you.



FALL HOLIDAYS

Town administrative offices will be closed on November 23rd and 24th in observance of Thanksgiving.

Town Hall will also close early at 2:00pm on Friday, November 10th in observance of Veterans Day.



Contact Us

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