



OCTOBER 2023

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 "Indian Summer" 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!



This Issue

Town Manager's Update
PAGE 02

Sea Witch Festival
PAGE 03

Fall Reminders
PAGE 04

Let's Talk Trash
PAGE 06

Pedestrian Safety
PAGE 08

Surf Fishing 101
PAGE 09

And More!

[Click here to subscribe!](#)

Town Manager's Update

October at the beach, can it get any better than this? As we go into fall there are many projects we have to get done. Here are just a few:

- Bring in the dune mats. Many of the dune mats at the "toe" of the dune were covered with sand by Tropical Storm Ophelia. Our maintenance team has been digging them out by hand and taking them up for the fall/winter.
- With funding assistance from Representative Schwartzkopf and Senator Huxtable, the town will be ordering additional dune mats this fall to replace some of the older ones.
- Flooding on Read Ave bayside has been an issue for years. The town has been working with Beacon Engineering and Remington & Vernick Engineering (RVE) on the storm drain challenges on Read Ave. Both firms have been asked to provide two to three options to mitigate the street flooding. Beacon has turned their proposals in this week and RVE will turn theirs in next week. The options will be given to the Infrastructure Committee to review and possibly recommend one to the commissioners for installation. The town has also been working with Senator Coons' office on a Congressionally Direct Spending Project (CDS) for the flooding which is in the 2024 Senate Appropriations Bill. The town requested one million dollars for a storm water management project. At this time, we are waiting for Congress to pass a government funding bill including the CDS.
- Dewey Beach Wants You! The town has posted several open job positions to include: Full Time Maintenance Supervisor, Lifeguards/EMTs, and Parking and Dog Ambassadors. [Click here](#) for more information or to apply.
- The 5G poles on the dunes have been a major undertaking for the town staff since I arrived over 2 years ago. Assistant Town Manager Jim Dedes has done an outstanding job running point on this project. After hearing from the public, a private citizen filing a lawsuit against Verizon, selecting CTC as our wireless consultant, developing a town wireless code and standards, and many meetings and phone calls between Verizon, CTC, and the town, 3 of the poles located on Rodney, Clayton, and Cullen Street have been moved off the dunes. Jim and I continue to work with Verizon to move the other 2 poles located on St. Louis St. and Collins Ave.
- Trash and cigarette butts continue to be a problem in our beautiful town. To the restaurant and bar owners, please clean the areas in front of your establishments daily, especially for cigarette butts. The town has asked the state for cigarette butt receptacles (CBRs) from the Cigarette Litter Prevention Program to be placed around the town. Let's keep Dewey clean. See page 7 for more.

Enjoy the great weather !

Bill Zolger



Sea Witch 2023 Festival

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27TH

TRICK-OR-TREAT

6:30PM - 7:30PM

BAY BEACH PARTY

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 and a bonfire! This event is free for kids (\$5 donation requested from adults at the beach party)! Be sure to stop by 1505 Coastal Hwy to visit our town staff, police officers, and grab some treats!

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.





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





Let's Talk Trash

- The [Ocean Conservancy](#) releases annual reports detailing the coastal cleanup efforts of dedicated volunteers all over the world. The [2022 report](#) found that 6,254 pounds of trash was retrieved in Delaware alone. As a coastal town, Dewey Beach has a direct route to the waterways, and therefore a greater responsibility to protect the beach and ocean that give so much to us. Are you doing your part to keep Dewey Beach clean?



Food Wrappers

Food and snack wrappers are among the top three most commonly found items during coastal cleanups. The grab-and-go food options throughout Dewey are certainly convenient, but don't make the environment pay the price. During busy weekends, public trash receptacles can fill up quicker than staff can manage. Trash placed on top of an overflowing can is certain to be blown around, and can easily end up in the waterways.



Plastic Bottles & Caps

It's no secret that plastic bottles are one of the worst offenders when it comes to ocean pollution. Plastic bottles take hundreds of years to decompose, breaking down into microplastics that end up in the marine life food chain. The easiest way to be sure your plastic bottle isn't ending up in the ocean or bay? Don't use them at all! Save money - and the planet - and opt for reusable cups.



No Butts About It...

Cigarette butts continue to top the list as the most common type of litter in coastal environments. Improperly discarded cigarette butts are considered plastic pollution due to the synthetic cellulose acetate (plastic) filters they contain. Each individual cigarette butt can degrade into thousands of microplastic fibers in the environment. Additionally, cigarette butts leach toxins into the environment, including nicotine, lead, arsenic and others that poison marine life. Finally, cigarette butts themselves can look like a food item to birds and marine animals, and pose a choking hazard.

Standing outside of a restaurant and flicking your cigarette into the street, or tossing it from your vehicle may seem pretty inconsequential. Know that by doing this, you're directly contributing to the worst type of ocean pollution.

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 2023

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](#) →



**WALK
THIS
WAY**

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY IN DEWEY BEACH

Town officials began working with DeIDOT to institute major pedestrian safety upgrades in 2019. We've seen great improvement with curb bump-outs, crossing beacons, reduced speed limit, and the center island project. But we have an *ongoing commitment to public education.*

1 Use Crosswalks
Always make your way to a crosswalk before attempting to cross the highway.

2 Light the Beacon
Hit the button on the crosswalk sign to alert drivers that you need to cross the street.

3 Wait
Do not assume drivers will stop just because the beacon is flashing.

4 Check All Lanes
Just because one lane is stopped, doesn't mean all lanes will!

It's a balancing act in Dewey Beach. We strive to provide a highly walkable town, while acknowledging that traffic on the main highway must keep moving - Dewey is right in the middle of other popular beach towns! Improvements initiated on both a state and local level have greatly improved pedestrian safety in Dewey, but the task of maintaining public safety as a whole is never finished. **If you are driving through Dewey**, reduce your speed, put down your phone or other distractions, and be alert. We have a high amount of pedestrian traffic year-round. If you see a flashing beacon, stop, look both ways, and wait to ensure no one is crossing the street.

If you are walking through Dewey, the greatest risk is not checking all lanes before crossing the street. Do not assume that after activating a beacon, it is safe to cross. Wait. check the shoulder, and both lanes closest to you. If the car in lane one stops, don't immediately run across to the median. Check again before crossing the second lane. At the median, repeat these steps. It is imperative to assume that oncoming traffic *does not see you*. Assist others who may not be in the condition to assess traffic and cross the street safely on their own. When drivers and pedestrians share this responsibility, Dewey is a safer place to be!



CAST AWAY

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a beach. Two fishing rods are planted upright in the sand, one on the left and one on the right. The ocean waves are breaking onto the shore, and the sky is clear and blue. The title 'CAST AWAY' is superimposed at the top in a large, bold, black font with a white outline.

This season may be the best time to try out one of coastal Delaware's favorite activities. The ocean is warm, the sun is still shining, and the crowds have gone home for the off-season - it's the perfect recipe for a relaxing day of surf fishing. Rich King of [Delaware Surf Fishing](#) shares the basics.



Rich's Tips & Tricks

Besides the obvious rod and reel, what should I have on hand for surf fishing?

- [Fishing License](#)
- [Delaware Fishing Guide](#)
- Measuring Tape
- Pliers
- Knife
- Mullet Rigs
- Top & Bottom Rigs with small hooks for catching kingfish, spot, or croaker
- Fishbites
- Hooks sized 6/0 to 8/0 for larger fish
- Surf Rig with Fish Finder set up

When is the best time to fish?

A couple of hours prior to high tide, or a couple hours at the start of the outgoing tide. Though, pro tip - Rich prefers the incoming tide.

Or, keep it simple - everything eats in the morning! If you have a flat calm morning when the sun is barely rising, you're likely to see hundreds of fish breaking the surface.

Any tips for where I should aim my cast?

In Dewey Beach and other Delaware beaches, the fish are in the first set of waves. Beyond the breaking waves are all scavengers, so don't feel the need to cast far, or you'll likely be casting right over the most prized fish! Learn to read the beach. Experience teaches - go, enjoy, and you'll learn quickly.

Respecting - and protecting - our vulnerable marine life is important to all of us. As an avid fisherman, what do you want people to know?

Know your creel limits. They're in place for good reason. And never drag your catch through the sand. Fish have a slime coat that protects them from parasites and bacteria, and being drug over the sand removes that protective coating. Walk down to the surf as you reel in, lift the fish up out of the water, remove the hook, and return them to deeper incoming water. Don't keep the fish out of water any longer than necessary. Don't walk around the beach showing them off - they're not toys. Overhandling also removes their slime coat.

Other Helpful Resources

[DNREC Fisheries Section](#)

[Delaware Surf Fishing](#)

[Tide Charts](#)

Next Page...

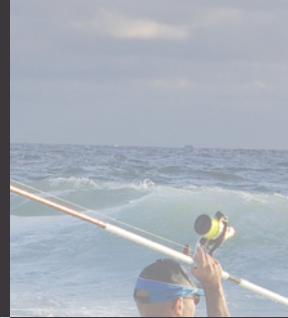
**What are we catching this fall in
Dewey Beach?**

Striped Bass

These fish spend the first few years of life in the inland bays, but will move out into the surf zone in the fall to feed heavily before joining the main Atlantic migratory schools. Striped Bass can make for a good meal, but be sure you're familiar with the regulations regarding this fish before you opt to keep your catch.

One of the benefits of fishing in Dewey is the close proximity of the Rehoboth Bay. As previously mentioned, there are plenty of Striped Bass hanging out near structures in the bay, so if you're not in the mood to brave the surf, try your luck on calmer waters on the bayside.

Tackle Recommendation: Along the bay, try casting along pier poles with small white swim shads or bucktails in the 2 ounce range. Surf fishermen may use bait like bunker chunks, but Rich prefers lures like silver casting spoons in the 2-3 ounce range.



Red Drum

The Red Drum population was exceedingly low north of the Chesapeake Bay for quite some time, but more and more of these fish are being spotted off of the Delaware coast. Spending the first four or so years of their lives in the bay, Red Drum tend to make their way to the ocean surf in late fall.

These fish can get quite large, living up to 60 years and maxing out at around 60 inches and nearing 100 pounds. While large Red Drum may be fun to catch, make sure you're safely returning them to the water - only fish in the 20 to 27 inch range may be kept, and no more than 5 can be in possession at any time.

Tackle Recommendation: Spot or kingfish heads are the best choices.

Bluefish

Previously over-fished in Atlantic waters, the Bluefish has made a comeback over the past 10-15 years thanks to conservation efforts. It certainly helps that these fish spawn multiple times over spring and summer, with females having up to 2 million eggs! Bluefish also grow quickly, maxing out around 30 pounds. These fish are vicious predators with razor sharp teeth. If you ever notice a feeding frenzy off the coast, causing the water to look like a washing machine of small, leaping baitfish, chances are there are Bluefish just under the surface. You can keep up to 3 Bluefish when fishing from the shore.

Tackle Recommendation: For bait fishing, mullet rigs work very well, or small pieces of mullet or bunker on high-low rigs. Their sharp teeth will destroy swim baits or soft plastics, so spoons and metal lures are preferred. If you're fishing with a swim shad for Striped Bass and it comes back missing a tail, there's Bluefish out there - switch to a spoon.

news brief

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

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

There is currently a vacancy on the Board of Adjustment. Are you a Dewey Beach resident interested in serving the community? [Click here!](#)

UPCOMING MEETINGS

October 7th - Planning & Zoning
October 12th - Investment Committee
October 17th - Budget & Finance Committee
October 20th - Town Council
October 23rd - Charter & Code Committee

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.

WE'RE HIRING

There's no better place to work during the summer than the beach! Recruiting starts now for spring and summer positions, including our beach patrol, parking ambassadors, seasonal police, dog ambassadors, front office staff, and maintenance team. New positions are being added regularly, so check back often on our [website!](#)

We look forward to having you on the team! Have questions about working for the Town of Dewey Beach? [Contact us](#) today, we'd love to hear from you.

JAWS ON THE BAY

Due to inclement weather, our Jaws on the Bay movie event has been postponed to spring of 2024. The exact date of the movie showing will be released soon!

We appreciate the continued interest in this event, and we look forward to kicking off the season with Jaws!

UPDATE FROM US WIND

As a courtesy to our residents and visitors with questions regarding the Offshore Wind Project in Maryland and Delaware, we have continued to provide updates on our [website](#). Recently, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) released their [Draft Environmental Impact Statement \(DEIS\)](#) for US Wind projects. BOEM will commence a 45-day public comment period on October 6th that will include four public meetings in the second half of October. Two are in person, and two are online. For more information regarding these meetings, [click here](#).

Please note, these updates are for informational purposes only. Concerns regarding offshore wind projects should be directed to [US Wind](#).



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