



SEPTEMBER 2023

DELAWARE'S FAVORITE PLAYGROUND

Official Newsletter of The Town of Dewey Beach



The Sun Sets on Summer 2023

September marks the unofficial end to the summer! But don't worry... the fun doesn't stop at Labor Day here in Dewey. With perfect sunny days that aren't too hot, and warm breezes off the ocean, the locals will tell you that September may just be the best time to enjoy the Delaware beaches. Our local businesses are still up and running and excited to welcome you, too! Some of the best events in Dewey are happening this month, and we want you to enjoy "locals season" right along with us!



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Town Manager's *Update*

As we say goodbye to August and welcome in September, we celebrate the town's summer progress. Our beach looked great this summer after receiving beach replenishment thanks to the Army Corps of Engineers and DNREC. Our new beach trash vendor did a great job maintaining our trash receptacles on the beach, especially on busy weekends. The new town parking area, that was previously a part of Pier Point Marina, increased public parking by 30 spaces. Our maintenance team did an outstanding job maintaining the dune crossings, landscaping, and picking up trash on the streets throughout the summer. We continue to make progress on the new Town Hall and Police Station as we move into "Phase II" which is the Mechanical, Electrical, and Plumbing (MEP) design phase. Our new Police Chief worked on Friday and Saturday nights throughout the summer to become familiar with Dewey's active night life. The Police Department did a great job patrolling the streets led by the Chief and Lt. Dempsey, with the new bike patrol being a great success.

With hurricane season upon us please review the [Hurricane Safety Information](#) on the Town Spotlight of our website. We're also providing additional safety information in this newsletter.

Finally, I want to say a special thanks to:

- The Dewey Beach Civic League, Dewey Beach Lions Club, and the Dewey Beach Business Partnership for their generous donations to the Police Department and town for a new all-terrain vehicle that will patrol the beach and streets. THANK YOU!
- Dewey Beach resident Mario Giovannini and others like him who help keep our town clean by picking up trash. THANK YOU!
- Highway One for another outstanding 4th of July Fireworks display. THANK YOU!
- Dewey Beach Town Commissioners who supported and approved: the first anti-marijuana dispensary code among the beach towns, funding of the new Town Hall and Police Station, the 11pm curfew for minors, the hiring of three additional police officers, and the approval of permanent outdoor dining around town. THANK YOU!

Now let's enjoy September!

Bill Zolper



THANK YOU

Dewey Beach Patrol



The Dewey Beach Patrol will end their service for the 2023 season on September 10th. We've had an outstanding and safe summer thanks to the brave men and women that protect our residents and visitors every day. Not only does the DBP guard the beaches, but our EMTs are often first on the scene to emergency medical calls throughout town.

The end of summer is always bittersweet, as we say goodbye to many of our lifeguards that return to school for the off-season. We're thankful that many return year after year and continue to serve the Dewey Beach community. We hope the training and experiences our lifeguards had here in Dewey will continue to serve them well in all future endeavors. More importantly, we hope the memories and friends that were made this year last a lifetime! We hope to see you all for summer 2024!

Do you know someone who would be a great asset to the Dewey Beach Patrol? Recruiting for 2024 starts now! Please share this newsletter, and take a closer look at page 8!



DBP lifeguard CJ Fritchman took home the gold for the Open Mens Beach Flags at this year's USLA National Lifeguard Competition. With the help of the Dewey Beach Patrol, the Sussex County Chapter placed second overall in this year's competition.

Senior Lieutenants Liam Zolper and Hank Coveleski capped off the summer season as heroes. With the assistance of Police Lt. Cliff Dempsey and Officer Dylan Ebke, they successfully revived a person in cardiac arrest on August 22nd. Thanks to quick administration of CPR and the use of an AED, the individual survived.



calm before the storm

NOW IS THE TIME TO PREPARE FOR STORM SEASON

NOAA predicts an above-normal hurricane season for 2023. Here is your reminder to prepare now for potential severe storms.

The ongoing El Nino phenomenon, combined with abnormally warm ocean temperatures is expected to create the perfect conditions for an active 2023 hurricane season, which typically spans from mid-August through mid-October. While the state of Delaware has been lucky in avoiding a direct hit from a major hurricane, we've seen that even smaller systems off of our coast can pose a severe threat. While high, solid dune structures protect us from rising ocean waters in many cases, bay side flooding is a major concern. If you've spent any length of time in Dewey, you know that even a solid rain storm combined with a lunar tide can have flood waters reaching

Coastal Highway. Severe storm surge from hurricanes off the coast can cause flash flooding throughout town. It is imperative that not just *residents* know the risks, but that property owners properly inform their renters who may not be well-versed in the price we pay to live in a coastal community. We encourage all members of the Dewey Beach family to register for the Delaware Emergency Notification System (DENS), and also subscribe to our town emails to receive severe weather alerts. Prepare now for a potential storm event. For more information on storm preparedness, visit preparede.org.

1 Know Your Zone
All of Dewey Beach lies in the "A" evacuation zone. If an evacuation is ordered, listen for instructions for this zone.

2 Make a Plan
Planning allows you to act with purpose under stress. Make a plan today to reduce the impact of disaster.

3 Build a Kit
Prepare your supplies for lost power, stay-in-place, or evacuation orders.

4 Stay Informed
Register for the Delaware Emergency Notification System



Join The Team!



The following committees/boards are in immediate need of new members! Would you be a great addition to the team? [Contact us today!](#)



It takes a village to make Dewey Beach the best it can be! While you may be most familiar with our town staff, behind the scenes are many hardworking volunteers that are doing the critical tasks to ensure the successful future of our town. Are you ready to get involved? With a variety of boards and committees, each with a different focus, we're sure that one is a great fit for you! Visit the Government section of our [website](#) to see our list of committees. Are you interested in volunteering in a capacity outside of local government? Learn more about the [Dewey Beach Civic League](#)!

Board of Adjustment

Meets on an as-needed basis to hear and decide applications for variances and special exceptions, or appeal a decision of the Building Official. Members of the BOA must be full-time residents of Dewey Beach.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Charter & Code Review

Develop recommendations for updating, clarifying, and otherwise improving both the Town Charter and the Code to enhance their interpretation, application, and relevance to current and future Town Operations and services.

[LEARN MORE](#)



THE PARTY NEVER STOPS



End of Summer Beach Party

SEPTEMBER 16TH
5:30PM - 9:00PM
NEW ORLEANS STREET BEACH

\$5 DONATION REQUESTED

Don't miss the party of the summer! Held on the beach at New Orleans Street, the annual End of Summer Beach Party is the place to be on September 16th!

This is a family-friendly event with food and drinks available from our local restaurants, as well as a beach bonfire and live music featuring Bryen O'Boyle!

This event is hosted by the Dewey Business Partnership. Formed in 2011, the DBP seeks to enhance Dewey Beach by providing well-rounded family friendly events in the town.



**LOOKING FOR THE VIP
EXPERIENCE?
BOOK A TABLE!**

just when you thought the summer fun was over...

JAWS

ON THE BAY

Friday, September 22nd at 8:00pm

Where is the movie being shown?

On the Bay Beach at Van Dyke Avenue.

Is this event free?

A \$5.00 donation is requested upon entry. The first 200 guests to donate will each receive a Jaws on the Bay drink koozie!

Will food be provided?

Popcorn will be available for \$1.00. Please visit one of the many outstanding restaurants in Dewey for dinner, and join us afterwards for the movie!

What should I bring with me?

Your beach chair or blanket, and beverages. We'll have a bonfire on site, so feel free to bring your marshmallows and roasting sticks!

What is the rating on Jaws?

Jaws (1975) is rated PG.

Is there a rain date?

In the event of inclement weather, this event will be rescheduled. A new date will be released on our Facebook page.

Do I have to pay for parking?

No! Free parking in Dewey Beach begins September 16th. Please follow all daily parking regulations, and park in marked spaces at no charge.

Where can I find more information?

RSVP and share this event with friends through the [event page](#) on Facebook! We can't wait to see you there!



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



CURFEW FOR MINORS



WHAT'S CHANGED?

Previously, the curfew for minors was 11:00pm every day, except Fridays and Saturdays when kids could be out until 12:00am. **The most recent ordinance sets the minor curfew at 11:00pm every night of the week.**

The fine for breaking curfew has also been increased, from \$100, to \$300. Parents or guardians permitting their child to break curfew are also subject to a fine of \$300.

Exceptions to the curfew do apply in certain circumstances. Read more in the [Town Code](#).

The Town of Dewey Beach first instituted a curfew for minors in 1994. As stated in the original [ordinance](#), during this time town officials noticed an increase in large groups of kids congregating in public areas after 11:00pm. At this time of night, Dewey's famous "nightlife" is in full swing. The vast majority of restaurants will no longer permit unaccompanied persons under the age of 21, and retail shops and many smaller eateries are closed.

With limited options, some of the younger visitors find less desirable activities that at the very least cause a nuisance, and at worst become a safety concern. The number one priority for town staff is public safety - this includes the safety of our residents, staff, and visitors. We are especially concerned for the minors that vacation or live in our town, and protecting them is of utmost importance. Whenever possible, keeping kids off of the streets and beach during late night hours prevents them from getting into trouble, or finding themselves in a precarious situation through no fault of their own.

We encourage younger visitors to enjoy Dewey Beach to the fullest extent during daytime or early evening hours when there are plenty of activities for them to enjoy safely.

EDUCATION

Our first line of defense is always education! Police officers and town staff are dedicated to informing the public of these changes. We'll be ramping up our messaging again in early spring to prepare for late May through June when we tend to see the largest influx of minors in Dewey Beach.

You can help us spread the word! Many parents are unaware that "Dewey after dark" is not a place where kids can hang out unattended in public spaces. Talk to your friends with teenagers, and let them know that while in town, kids must be safely home or at their rental unit by 11:00pm. Parents should be aware of their child's whereabouts, and let their kids know that they may be fined and their parents contacted if found loitering after curfew in Dewey.

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](#) 



Jaws on the Bay

Our first town-sponsored event is a gift to our visitors and residents for an outstanding summer! Join us for the last movie event of 2023!

[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](#) 

REHOBOTH BEACH VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

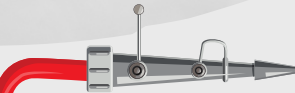
Donation Drive

The Rehoboth Beach Volunteer Fire Company responds annually to over 600 calls from residents and visitors alike, and that number is continuing to increase steadily year after year. Your generous monetary donations enable the RBVFC to continue their mission of providing the best emergency services to you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Please consider donating what you can to help the RBVFC help you, when you need it most..



Hurry!
Last chance to
donate
for the match
program!

Many residents and visitors to our area are surprised to learn that when they dial 911 in an emergency, most of the people who respond are volunteers. They leave their families at a moment's notice, day or night, rain or shine, ready to place their lives in harm's way to protect your lives and property. This type of dedication and commitment is tough to come by, but it's one of the reasons the Delaware beaches are such a great place to live, work or vacation. These firefighters are your neighbors and co-workers. They dutifully spend hundreds of hours training each year to be ready to respond at any time to emergencies such as structure fires, motor vehicle accidents, brush fires, water rescues, downed power lines and much, much more.

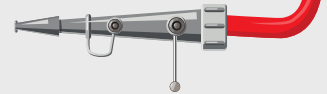


Join the Town of Dewey Beach in supporting our local heroes in their mission to continue providing life-saving service to our area. From July 1st - September 9th, the Town of Dewey Beach will match donations up to a grand total of **\$15,000!**

The Rehoboth Beach Volunteer Fire Company is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and donations made by check are 100% tax deductible.

Donations are accepted by check payable to the Rehoboth Beach Volunteer Fire Company. Please send checks to Dewey Beach Town Hall at 105 Rodney Ave, Dewey Beach, DE 19971.

*Donations may also be made on our [website](#).



*In many cases, online donations submitted to an organization that is not a 501(c)(3) can not be deducted on taxes (The Town of Dewey Beach is not a registered 501(c)(3)). We can provide a receipt for you to verify your donation is for the Rehoboth Beach Volunteer Fire Company, but can not guarantee this will be accepted as a tax deduction. Please check with your tax accountant prior to making an online donation if you wish to use your donation as a tax deduction, or, submit your donation by check made payable to Rehoboth Beach Volunteer Fire Company.



news brief

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

BEACH PATROL SERVICE

Our lifeguards will conclude service for the 2023 season on Sept. 10th. After this point the beaches will be unguarded.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- September 7th - Association of Coastal Towns
- September 8th - Climate Change Committee
- September 12th - Marketing Committee
- September 15th - Town Council
- September 29th - Town Council Organizational

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.

CONSTRUCTION RULES

Beginning September 16th, off-season construction regulations will go into effect. Between Sept 16th - May 14th, in addition to the permitted weekday work hours of 8:00a - 6:00p, contractors may also work on Saturdays from 9:00a - 6:00p. Remember no work is permitted on major holidays, including Labor Day. [Click here](#) for full construction rules.

Fall is a busy season for our building department. Please file your permit applications as early as possible. Be patient! We're working diligently on your requests.

2023 ELECTION CANCELLED

No other candidates except the three incumbents filed for the three open commissioner's seats. Therefore, the Dewey Beach Board of Elections has deemed there is no need to hold this year's election. Read the full release [here](#).

Due to the cancellation, voter registration also remains open. It is never too early to [register!](#)



LABOR DAY WEEKEND CELEBRATING AMERICA'S WORKERS

We're excited to welcome our last big wave of visitors for Labor Day weekend here in Dewey Beach! To allow our hardworking team a break, administrative offices will be closed on Monday, September 4th. However, our parking ambassadors, lifeguards, EMTs and police will all be on duty throughout the entire holiday weekend. Please say hello and wish our workers a happy and safe Labor Day!



Contact Us

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