
MAYOR
Dell Tush

TOWN OF DEWEY BEACH

COMMISSIONERS

TOWN MANAGER
Gordon Elliott

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2008

Dale Cooke
Rich Hanewinkel
Diane Hanson
Claire Walsh

Events Promise a Busy Summer for Dewey

If you think this coming summer will be the usual, you'd be wrong. See the many family-oriented events planned below.

Volunteers Needed for Annual Unity for Beauty Day

**Please Mark the Date:
Spring Unity for Beauty Day, Saturday, May 17.**

Did you know that communities with lots of trees and landscaping enjoy a 12% increase in business? If that isn't enough, they also enjoy lower crime, noise, and calmer traffic! So how about helping us make Dewey a calmer, quieter town that's good for business and looks terrific too?

Many new trees have already been planted as a result of your efforts at the spring and fall beautification days in 2007. We also have a new flowerbed of daylilies at the Life Saving Station to bring beauty to our town meetings this coming summer. In spring we hope to plant flowers in planters throughout town and plant more trees and ground cover. To volunteer or to make a contribution contact Diane Hanson, Chair of the event, at 302 226 5998 or by email at: dianehanson@deweybeachcivicleague.org. See the Civic League website for more information: <http://www.deweybeachcivicleague.org>.

Professional Beach Festival Comes to Dewey Beach June 5-8

Mayor Dell Tush has been working with the State Director of Tourism and the Tourism Director for Southern Delaware to bring a professional Beach Festival to Dewey Beach. It has many components such as professional volleyball, skim boarding, a race, as well as other events. We anticipate this event will have a positive impact on our town's image as well as benefit the local businesses and rental market.

Special Family Events Planned for this Summer for Dewey Beach

The Chamber of Commerce and business owners, along with the commissioners, have formed a marketing committee that has worked over the winter months to plan events to attract more families to our beaches, especially mid-week in the shoulder seasons. Plans include **Wednesday Night bonfires** from June 18 through Labor Day. There will be no charge and it's great fun for the entire family with food and non-alcoholic drinks for sale. The fun starts at 7:00 p.m. on the beach at Dagsworthy Avenue.

Skim and boogie board lessons will be available on Saturdays from June 21 through Labor Day, 9:00-10:00 a.m. Other events not yet finalized include, **Eco-tourism/ kayaking**, and **movies on the beach**. Beginning March 1, 2008, a full schedule can be viewed on the Chamber's web site at www.beach-fun.com or contact the Chamber at 227-2233 x 12 for a copy of the Schedule or Vacationland Guide.

Dewey Beach Patrol (DBP) Offers Junior Lifeguard Program

The Dewey Beach Patrol (DBP) is proud to offer the DBP Junior Lifeguard Program to the public for participants ranging from ages 6 to 16. The program consists of regular sessions held Tuesday and Thursday, beginning at 10:30 AM SHARP and guardians may pick up at 11:30 AM. The program begins July 8th and the ending date is TBA. Participants will meet at the Dewey Beach Lifesaving Station on Dagsworthy Avenue and the beach. There is no fee for the program however pre-registration and a certified physical examination are required. For details regarding this outstanding program, please refer to "Junior Lifeguarding Program" at www.deweybeachpatrol.com.

Sunset Park Environmental Educational Outreach Program

The Dewey Beach Patrol will be providing the Second Annual Sunset Park Environmental Educational Outreach Program at Sunset Park located at Dagsworthy Avenue and the Bay. The program is inquiry-based and involves multitudes of activities that provide interpretation of our native Inland Bay flora and fauna. Seeing fish and shellfish identification touch tanks and stewardship discussions are all a part of this wonderful program. It is free, open to the public, and held in conjunction with the Center for the Inland Bays (CIB), Division of Parks and Recreation, and the Division of Fish and Wildlife. The Second annual event will be held in August beginning at 11:30 AM and ending at 1:30 pm. The specific date is to be announced. Inquiries are accepted with the Dewey Beach Patrol at 302-227-6365.

Ivy League Bonfire Event Planned

The University of Pennsylvania Alumni Association of Sussex County is planning an all-ivy event on Thursday, September 25 in Dewey Beach for all graduates of Ivy League colleges. If interested in learning more about this event, contact Ron Miller at (302) 377-2369 (Email: smiller@sefinternational.com) or Diane Hanson at 320 226 5998.

Town Improvements: Great Progress Being Made

Efforts Being Made to Control Litter

Commissioner Diane Hanson, Mayor Tush and Police Chief Sam Mackert have combined efforts to curb litter this summer. We intend to start by enforcing the laws we already have on the books. There is a \$200 fine for littering. A new option of community service will be available in lieu of the fee. Signs will be posted on trashcans liberally distributed throughout town. We are looking into buying new trashcans that allow for disposal of cigarette butts, by far our most common form of litter. You can help by reporting any problems with litter to the town police department.

Parking Committee

The commissioners and town employees have been working with the Chamber of Commerce and business owners to improve parking. Most of the tickets/towing seems to be taking place around Bayard Ave according to research done by Steve Huse. The general plan seems to be evolving to (1) upgrade all of the street signage and markings on the Bayard Ave. area of Town and (2) reign in the towing through better instructions to the contractor and (3) propose the use of booting rather than towing other than safety-related issues. Recommendations from the committee will go to the Commissioners for approval and will hopefully result in improvements for the coming summer months. Future plans will be to work on the obstructed road shoulder/parking spaces and driveway problems.

Sign Committee

The seven members of the Dewey Beach Display Committee, chaired by Commissioner Claire Walsh, began meeting in November 2007 to tackle the issues of signage and displays of outdoor merchandise within the town. This coincides with the zoning review and changes required by the recently approved Comprehensive Development Plan. The committee has completed a draft ordinance of regulations. It will be forwarded to the town council for approval to forward to P&Z at the March meeting. A pilot of this ordinance is planned for one year to be revisited next year for changes as needed.

Commissioners Trained in Emergency Management

Rich Hanewinkel and Diane Hanson recently attended a two-day training session on emergency management. The course is required by FEMA to continue the town's eligibility for funding from them. The program increased the new commissioners' awareness of what is involved in managing emergencies such as a flood, storm, power outage, etc. They will be more able to evaluate policies and resources in preparing for such events in the future.

Congratulations Corner

Volunteer of the Year: David Main, President, Dewey Beach Civic League

David Main was honored at the annual meeting of the Dewey Beach/Rehoboth Beach Chamber of Commerce as Mayor Tush presented him with the Dewey Beach Volunteer of the Year award.

The goal of the Civic League is to educate and inform. Under David's leadership, the League sponsored the May Unity for Beauty Day and a second planting event in October. Neighbors and business owners worked together to plant flowers and trees to beautify our town demonstrating what we can accomplish when we work together. David has been instrumental in revitalizing the Civic League Board which now has a new website full of information on important issues, summaries of town meetings, news links, and a calendar of events. Ties to the town's business owners have also improved through monthly Happy Hours at local businesses. Finally a Lifeguard Appreciation Lunch was held last July.

Captain Todd Fritchman of the Dewey Beach Patrol presented the Lifeguard of the Year Award to Kelly Ruggerio on behalf of her daughter **Christina Ruggerio**. Her peers elected Christina who has served as a Dewey Beach lifeguard for the past three years.

Tush Takes on More Regional Responsibilities

Mayor Dell Tush was elected First Vice President of the Executive Committee of SCAT (Sussex County Association of Towns). SCAT provides a forum for local officials to meet and learn more about legislative and other issues relevant to the management of our local governments. In this capacity she has become an appointed member to the Legislative Council representing the Delaware League of Local Governments at the State Legislature and was recently appointed to the Board of The Small Cities Council for The National League of Cities, an organization that promotes better government.

The mayor has also been appointed to the Board of Directors of the Delaware Center for Inland Bays (CIB). CIB is a nonprofit established in 1994 after more than 20 years of active public participation and investigation into the decline of the inland bays and remedies for the restoration and preservation of the watershed.

From the Editor

Our goal is to improve communication with the property owners by publishing this newsletter four times per year. I hope that you enjoyed reading the news and found the information helpful. Please contact me directly with any comments or suggestions:

Diane Hanson

Commissioner

Email: dianehanson@townofdeweybeach.com or Phone: 302 226 5998