



FEBRUARY 2025

DELAWARE'S FAVORITE PLAYGROUND

Official Newsletter of The Town of Dewey Beach



Love is in the Air

If you're in need of a valentine this year, look no further - Dewey Beach may just be the perfect partner. Who else can offer relaxation, sun, fun, excitement, new friends, new experiences, and of course, an outstanding date night meal - or breakfast, lunch, or dessert, take your pick - all in one place? We just can't help but fall in love with Dewey over and over again! In this issue, we're tackling flood mitigation, starting our summer countdown, and preparing for season two with Dewey in Bloom! Read on for what's happening in Dewey this month!

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TOWN MANAGER'S

Update

Time flies when you're having fun! February marks my 4th year here in Dewey Beach as your Town Manager. I have truly enjoyed working with the many property and business owners and I'm looking forward to another 4 years. We have made many great changes and safety improvements to the town, including:

- Reducing the town speed limit to 25mph
- Addition of crosswalk markings
- Installation of speed boards at each end of town to slow traffic
- Installation of post-and-rope fencing down the center island to encourage crosswalk usage
- Improving ADA sidewalk compliance by increasing the width of the sidewalks
- Extending the nightly curfew for minors to 7 days a week
- Installation of additional streetlights on our darkest streets in town
- Adding speed bumps to slow traffic
- Hiring of additional police officers and a new Chief

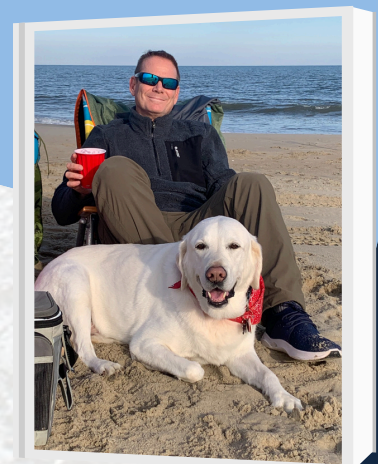
In the last 4 years, the town has applied for and received approximately \$6.3 million in State Grants, Federal Grants, and County funding for the new Town Hall/Public Safety building, infrastructure, and street projects. This is not counting the many grants our police department has received over the past 4 years.

Because the town recently established a "General Fund Policy," we have approximately \$2.5 million in a rainy-day fund which is equal to 6 months of expenses. The town also has \$6 million in the beach replenishment fund. That's a total of \$8.5 million in reserves. Thanks to the fund policy, the town is financially stable.

Town staff and Commissioners continue to hold meetings regarding the new Town Hall building. You may be asking yourself how is the town going to pay for the new public safety building? Check out page 6 for the latest updates on the project.

As always, Town officials want to work as a team with property owners to help move Dewey into a secure future, while meeting the necessary needs to serve and protect our stakeholders and visitors. While we understand our opinions will differ from time to time regarding how to achieve this goal, we hope everyone can approach decision-making in Dewey Beach with transparency, honesty, and respect for one another.

-Bill



COUNTDOWN

Summer 2025

1 0 8

days until Memorial Day

get vacation ready

Seasonal parking permits available starting April 1st!



It's never too early to book your beach bonfire!
Enjoy a beach fire during your vacation - book online today!



New furry addition to the family?
Skip the line and license your dog online today!



before the flood

THE KEY TO PREVENTING FLOOD LOSS IS PREPARATION

Take Control!

Schedule your meeting with Building Official, Daune Hinks to assess your flood risk. This service is free of charge. Call today (302)227-6363.

Review the [Dewey Beach Flood Information](#) page to see flood maps and learn more about flood insurance.

Keep your property green! While town code requires a certain amount of green space, when it comes to flood prevention - the greener, the better! Mature grasses and trees can absorb up to 15% of rainfall, while the root systems help stabilize soil and prevent erosion.

The time to prepare for a severe storm or flood event is before it happens. Know your zone, and be prepared for an emergency evacuation if necessary.

Local officials continue to refine and improve town-wide flood prevention strategies. Here's what we've been working on, and how *you* can do your part to help prevent property damage or loss *before* a flood event.

Ordinance 846, approved in October of 2024, requires new homes or substantially improved homes be constructed with 2 feet of freeboard, rather than the previous 1 foot requirement.

Two draft ordinances will be discussed and voted on by the Town Council on February 21st. One relates to dry floodproofing of non-residential structures, and another permits property owners the option to construct homes with 3 feet of freeboard.

Also on February 21st, the Town council will vote on proposed flood mitigation projects for both Jersey Street and Van Dyke Avenue. These projects were recommended for approval by the Infrastructure Committee in January of 2025.

The Climate Change Committee continues to meet regularly to discuss flood-related topics such as property owner education, a town resiliency fund, and storm reconstruction plans.

The Sunset Park project may begin as early as this month. Designed by the Center for the Inland Bays, this exciting venture will serve to mitigate bayside flooding and beautify the existing park area.

Our Building Official and Floodplain Administrator, Daune Hinks, continues to update our website with helpful information and links for property owners who wish to know more about protecting their homes. Daune also meets personally with homeowners to assess their flood risk.



let's get *growing*

Dewey in Bloom is kicking off our second season!

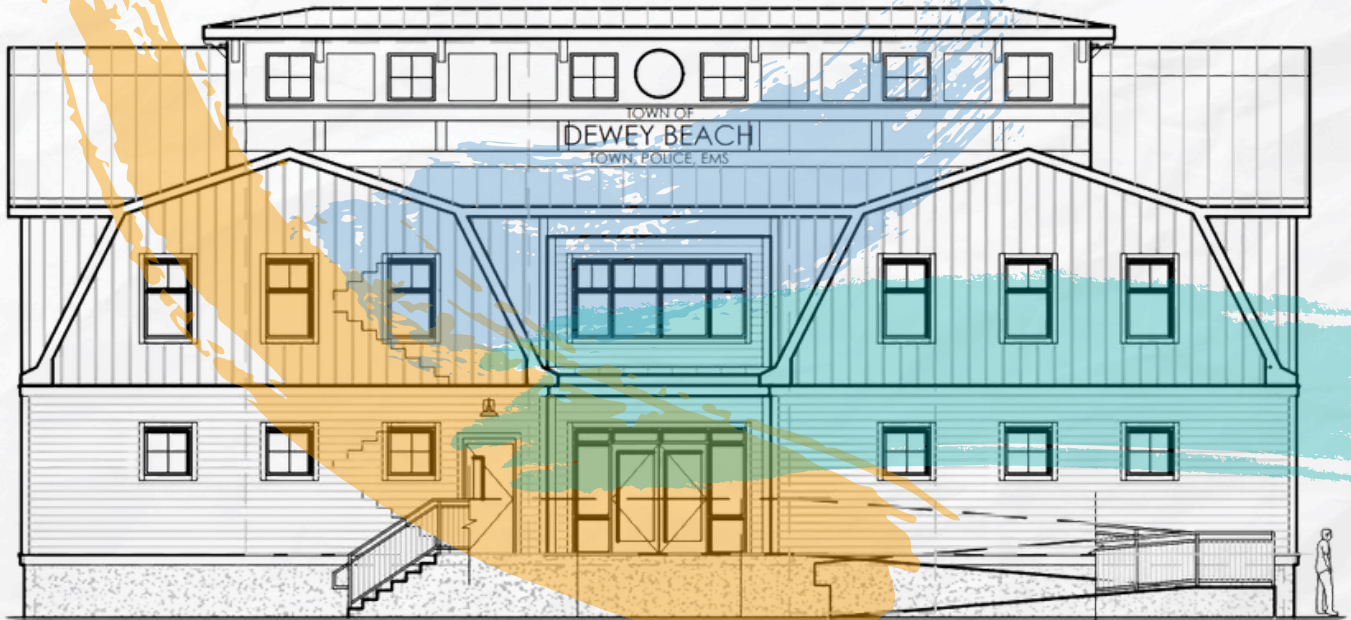
Would you like to see a bloom box on your street? Now is the time to gather your team and become a sponsor for 2025. We can't wait to welcome new members!

[CLICK HERE](#)



Town Hall & Police Station

Project Update



Builder Selection

At the January 31st Town Council Meeting, the Commissioners voted to approve a bid from Costello Construction for the construction of the new Town Hall building, in the amount of \$11,080,000. This was the lowest bid out of seven total submissions. Discussions were held to determine what features of the design could be altered or eliminated to reduce the total cost of the building.

Approved Funding

- 3 million in a 2023 Community Reinvestment Grant
- 1 million in a 2024 State Bond Bill Grant
- 1 million in 2024 from Sussex County for EMS Station
- 2.2 million saved and set aside by the Town

The Town may borrow up to \$3 million via a loan that would be covered by 50% of the current hotel tax.

This funding totals \$10.2 million. The town is working hard to review the current building plans and has already made cuts to reduce the cost by approximately \$637,000. The Town Council will review this matter again at the February 14th meeting.

The new Town Hall project comes with zero financial impact to property owners - **no** additional tax has been proposed for referendum to fund the new building.

Why Do We Need It?

The new building is not just a Town Hall, but a public safety building that will house our town administration team, Alderman Court, Parking Department, Building Department, Police Department, and Sussex County EMS. Staff is currently working out of two smaller buildings not constructed to commercial standards, and continues to battle mold and moisture issues in both locations. We have outgrown the current Town Hall and Police Station, constructed nearly 30 years ago.

The new building will be constructed as a Risk Level 4 structure, able to withstand 137mph winds, with additional freeboard to prevent flooding of the interior. This building becomes an emergency command post during storm events.

The new Police Station will meet Delaware's accreditation standards, which the current station does not meet.

DEWEY BEACH POLICE



..... 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

The Dewey Beach Police Department recently issued their annual report for 2024. Highlights include:

- Over \$300,000 awarded to the department in grant funding
- The addition of a new, state-of-the-art communications console and computer-aided dispatch (CAD) program to modernize the dispatch center
- Enhanced training programs tailored to the specific needs of officers working in Dewey Beach
- Body Worn Cameras (BWC) synchronized with officer's In-Car Cameras (ICC) to maximize accountability and transparency

Read the full report

[CLICK HERE](#)



Join Us! DEWEY BEACH PATROL

We're Hiring for Summer 2025!

You'll be committed to ocean safety, maintain a high degree of physical fitness, meet lifelong friends, acquire your Open Water Rescue Certification, Emergency Medical Responder Certification, compete in lifeguard competitions, and have a whole lot of fun!

The Dewey Beach Patrol will hold tryouts for lifeguard and EMT positions during the months of March and April. Tryouts will be held on 3/23, 3/30 and 4/6 at the Dewey Beach Lifesaving Station at 1 Dagsworthy Avenue in Dewey Beach, Delaware.

Visit townofdeweybeach.com to apply today!

Where the Fun Never Ends!

DEWEY BEACH HOSTS A VARIETY OF EVENTS ALL YEAR LONG!



Winter at the Beach

The Rehoboth-Dewey Chamber of Commerce is always adding new events to their calendar! Come visit us - it's always better at the beach!

[READ MORE](#) 



Spring is Coming

Get ready for the Dewey Business Partnership spring events! Make your plans now to attend the annual Dewey Egg Scoop!

[READ MORE](#) 



Book a Bonfire

Many visitors book a winter bonfire on Dewey Beach to celebrate the New Year! Book your gathering online today!

[READ MORE](#) 



Book an Event

We've always got summertime on our minds here in Dewey! Now is the time to book your wedding or event for spring/summer 2025!

[READ MORE](#) 

JOIN US AT *the beach*



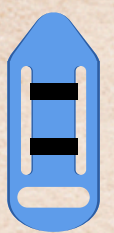
There's no better summer job than working in Dewey Beach! Work with an amazing team, enjoy the outdoors, and help our visitors all while spending your days in Delaware's Favorite Playground!



DOG AMBASSADORS
STARTING PAY \$16



LIFEGUARDS
STARTING PAY \$17



PARKING AMBASSADORS
STARTING PAY \$18



apply today!
TOWNOFDEWEYBEACH.COM

News Brief

Snowmageddon!

Last month our area was hit with significant snowfall. We'd like to extend our sincere appreciation to our hardworking maintenance team for braving the weather and keeping the town as accessible as possible. Our two-man team spent days clearing the roadways and sidewalks. Many thanks to Scott and Justin for their hard work!



Upcoming Meetings

- February 14th - Finance Committee
- February 14th - Town Council Special
- February 21st - Town Council Monthly

MEETING CALENDAR & AGENDAS

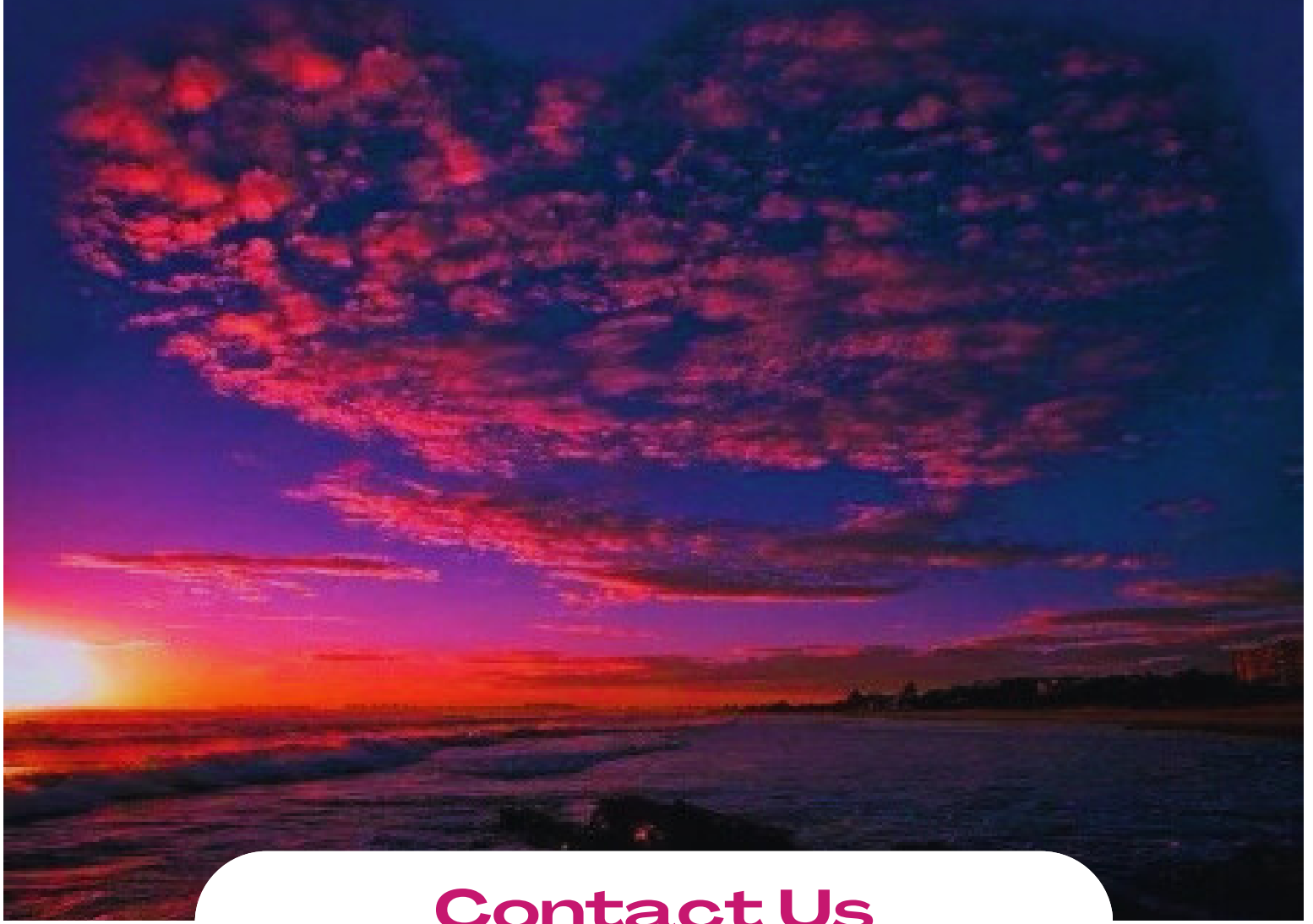
Budget Season Continues

This is a crucial time for town staff, our Finance Committee, and Town Council as we plan for the upcoming fiscal year here in Dewey. This year's budget may be voted on as early as February 21st. As always, we encourage the public to attend these meetings and offer their thoughts on the direction of the town. Your opinion matters, and we want to hear from you.

Blood Drive

The Dewey Beach Lions Club will sponsor a blood drive on April 6th from 12:00 - 6:00pm. Sign up today!





Contact Us

Dewey Beach Town Hall
105 Rodney Ave
Dewey Beach, DE 19971
(302) 227-6363

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Website

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Directory

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Facebook