**MARCH 2025** 

### DELAWARE'S FAVORITE PLAYGROUND

Official Newsletter of The Town of Dewey Beach



The month of March is when the energy returns to Dewey! This season strikes a perfect balance of fun for everyone, with family-friendly activities like the Dewey Egg Scoop, and the revelry of St. Patrick's Day weekend. On March 20th, we'll officially welcome spring, though we've been lucky enough to have a few glimpses of warmer weather already! After a long, quiet winter, we are ready to celebrate all of the March festivities with you!



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## TOWN MANAGER'S

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The "off season" isn't really that off anymore. The town has more folks living here year-round and coming down every weekend than ever before. There are now 10 restaurants that are open most of the year, and various events between the towns of Dewey, Rehoboth, and Bethany happening every weekend.

As you have noticed, the state's work to widen the sidewalks and make them ADA compliant continues, and should finish in three to four weeks depending on the weather. Once the sidewalks are completed, they will start on the post and rope project (Dewey Wave) from Read Ave to Collins Ave, and from Saulsbury Street to Clayton Street, along with some plantings in the center island.

The new Town Hall/Public Safety Building project continues to move forward. The old parking building on Coastal Highway was demolished to make way for Phase I the new Public Safety Building to house the Town Hall, Police Station, Alderman Court and Parking Enforcement. Once Phase I is completed, the employees will move from the current building to the new Public Safety Building. Then, Phase II will start with the demolition of the current building (Town Hall & Police Station at 105 Rodney Ave) to make way for the new Sussex County EMS Station. Phase I is expected to take about 430 days and Phase II about 170 days, all depending on obtaining materials and weather. If you would like to see how this project is being funded, click here. I'd like to thank the Sussex County Council for their continued support and the \$1.5 million increased contribution to the project.

The FY 2025 budget year is wrapping up, with better financial results than expected in most areas. Transfer tax, building permits, and accommodations tax did well this year. We continue to be "in the black!" The commissioners have approved the FY 2026 budget, which will include an increase in lifeguards, police officers, and parking/dog ambassadors salaries. We are still able to find dedicated fulltime and summer employees to join our team, even though our salaries remain lower than those in neighboring towns. Dewey is a special place to work!

The Center of the Island Bays (CIB) will be providing an update on the Living Shoreline Project at the Town Council meeting Friday the 21st at 3pm at the Lifesaving Station. Come hear the update and how this project will improve the shoreline from Dagsworthy St to McKinley Ave along the Rehoboth Bay.

The Dewey Beach Civic League and the Town will host a presentation on the History of Dewey Beach pre-1962. Local speakers will present the early history in Dewey Beach. The presentation will take place Saturday April 26th from 4pm to 6pm in the Sunset Room at the Hyatt. Don't miss this interesting presentation of Dewey's past!

I'd like to thank all of the groups and folks who continue to support our great Town of Dewey Beach.

Have a great St. Patty's Day weekend!!





# SUNTER LOS

days until Memori

Seasonal parking permits available starting April 1st!

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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!



# LICENSING



The payment portal for <u>business licenses</u> will open on April 1st. The new license year begins May 1st. Any business that plans to operate in town from May 1, 2025 through April 30, 2026 must obtain a license prior to starting work.



Online payment for <u>rental licenses</u> opens on April 1st. If you plan to rent your property between May 1, 2025 and April 30, 2026, you must first obtain a rental license.



If you rented your property between October 1st and March 30th, your <u>accommodations tax</u> is due by April 15th. If you owe accommodations tax, you will not receive your rental license for 2025-2026 until it is paid.

Questions?

We're here to help!

contact us!

St. Patrick's Day weekend serves as the unofficial "reopening" of Dewey Beach. Many establishments that have been closed during the winter months reopen their doors to welcome visitors once again. We're excited to see you, and we strive to provide a safe environment for all to enjoy!

# CELEBRATION BEGINS!

Ask a local service industry worker, and they'll tell you how excited they are to welcome you back to Dewey Beach! After a quiet winter, we are ready for the excitement that spring and summer brings. Be kind, be patient! We're here to ensure you have a good time!

We've said it once, we'll say it again. When you're here, you're part of the Dewey Beach family. We share the responsibility of everyone's safety. Look out for one another, and help a fellow Dewey beachgoer if needed. Let's keep Dewey a safe place to have fun!

If you see something, say something! Report any suspicious behavior immediately to a facility worker or police officer. If at any time you feel unsafe, ask for help!

Protect yourself and others. Never drive under the influence. Plan ahead! Consider scheduling your Uber or Lyft rides ahead of time in your app.

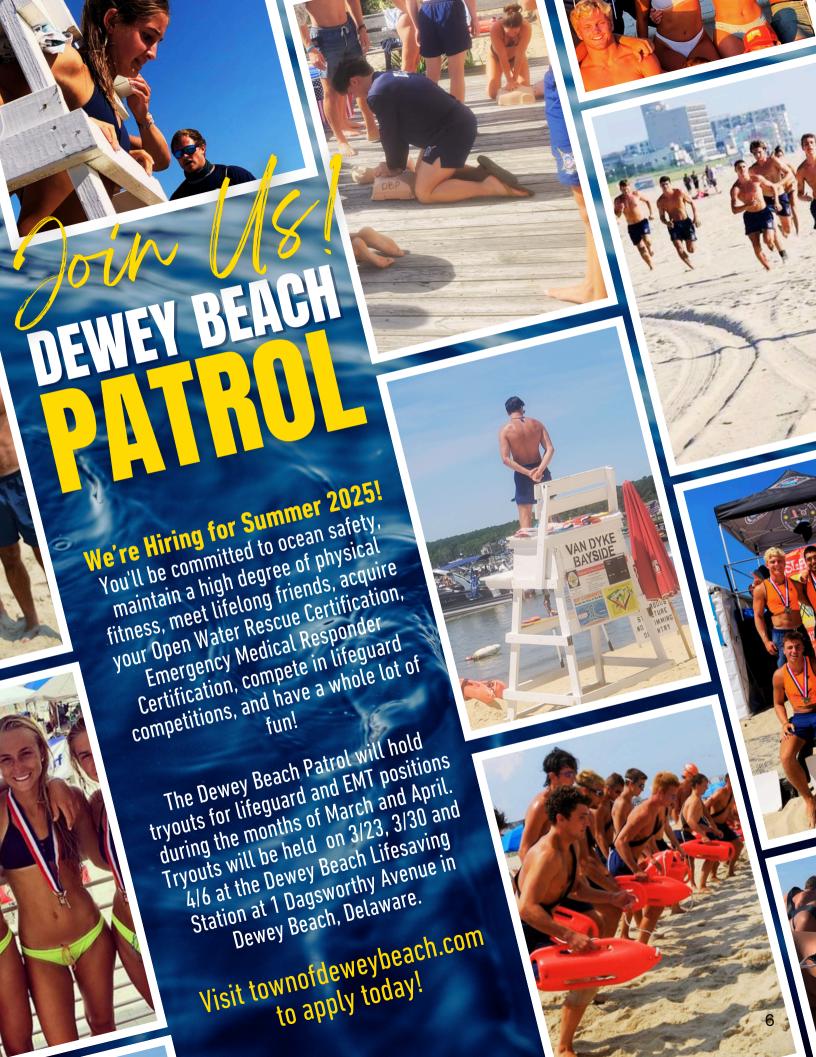
### FIRST RESPONDERS

Prepare for increased police presence throughout the Delaware beach area. With larger crowds comes an increase in emergency vehicles.

<u>Delaware law</u> requires motorists to move over for all stopped police, emergency vehicles and tow trucks. If you see emergency lights, you must move over a lane until you've passed the emergency vehicle.

During times of high pedestrian traffic, police officers may be on site to discourage loitering. If you are asked to move out of a location, please do so. Crowd control is done in the interest of public safety.

There is a strict <u>curfew</u> for minors in town. No person under the age of 18 is permitted on the beaches, streets or sidewalks after 11:00pm, unless they are working or running an errand for a guardian. If your child is out and about after curfew, they, as well as their guardian, could be subject to a fine. The goal of our police officers is to protect your children. Please assist us in this effort, and ensure your kids are home safe before 11:00pm.









### **CREDIT CARD FEES**

Beginning April 1st, a 3% fee will be added to all credit card transactions for town-related services. Check payments will not incur this fee.

### **DEWEY IN BLOOM 2025**

The 2025 season kicks off for Dewey in Bloom on May 18th, when volunteers will be planting new flowers for spring! There is still time to join the volunteer effort!



### **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

March 15th - Climate Change Committee March 21st - Town Council April 2nd - Board of Adjustment

**LEARN MORE** 

#### **NEXT MONTH'S NEWSLETTER.**

Stay tuned next month for the big vacation issue! We'll tackle all you need to know to prepare for summertime in Dewey!



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





