

JULY/AUGUST 2026



DELAWARE'S FAVORITE PLAYGROUND

Official Newsletter of The Town of Dewey Beach

Sun, Surf & Shaping Our Future

August is in full swing in Dewey Beach, bringing sunshine, beach days, and some of the season's biggest traditions. This issue features the excitement of skimboarding, with the East Coast Skimboarding Championships returning to our coast, along with an opportunity to help shape Dewey Beach's future by taking the Comprehensive Plan survey. Whether you're soaking up the last weeks of summer, cheering on competitors, or sharing your vision for the years ahead, there's plenty happening in August. Enjoy August, and let's make the most of everything Dewey Beach has to offer!

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... And More!



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TOWN MANAGER'S

Update

It's been a great summer so far, and we are just starting August!

I want to take some time to talk about our Rehoboth Beach Volunteer Fire Company and their donation drive. These brave men and women dedicate their personal unpaid time to save lives and property in our community. In the last 5 years, the Rehoboth Beach Fire Company has battled several fires in Dewey Beach. Without their quick response to these fires, many more homes or lives could have been lost. So, I'm asking you to donate to the Rehoboth Fire Company on our town webpage. The Town of Dewey Beach will match all donations for a possible total of \$15,000.00. See page 4 for more information!

Our Police Department and Beach Patrol continue to do an outstanding job around town and on the beach to keep us safe. A couple of safety reminders when using the crosswalks and traffic light crossings on RT 1. The crosswalks are easy: Activate the crosswalk flashing lights by pushing the button and waiting for traffic to stop in both lanes. I'll say that again! Push the button and **wait** for both lanes of traffic to stop! These instructions are also written in RED on the sidewalks at the crosswalks. Sounds easy, but many folks don't push the button, nor do they wait for traffic to stop. The traffic lights are even easier. There is a RED hand telling you not to cross, so don't. Push the button, wait for the WHITE walk signal to appear, traffic should stop, check both lanes, and cross. Don't cross on a green light. Please do NOT cross RT 1 without following these crossing instructions.

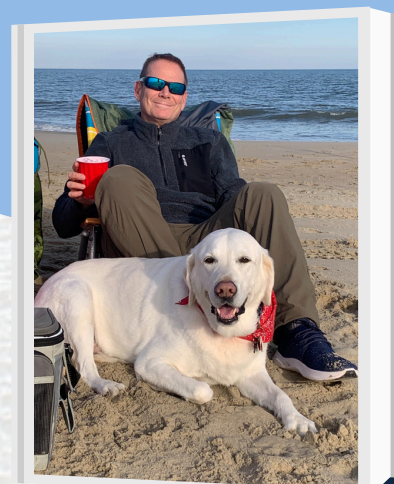
As for our new Town Hall, the interior of the building is moving along with work starting on the elevators. Hopefully they will be installed in the next 3 weeks and then on to a punch list! We hope to be in the new building in early to mid-September.

The town continues to work hard keeping the grass/weeds cut, trees trimmed, dune mats in working order, doggy bags filled, and trash picked up. If you see a problem, please call Town Hall at 302-227-6363 and let us know so we can address it.

I want to thank everyone for their donations and brick purchases for the new Town Hall and Public Safety Building. Your donations and generosity will greatly enhance the new building. A special thanks to all of those who have used their unique talents and made videos promoting our brick sales. If you haven't purchased a brick, you have until September 7th, 2026 to be part of Dewey Beach history!

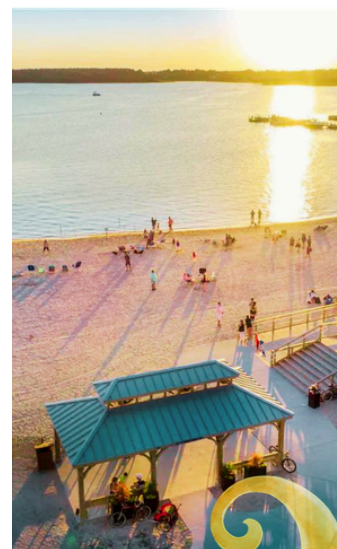
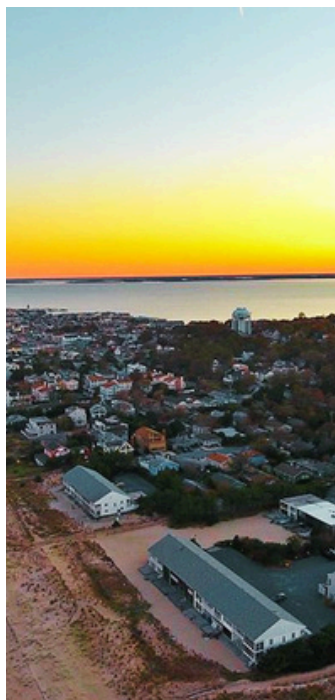
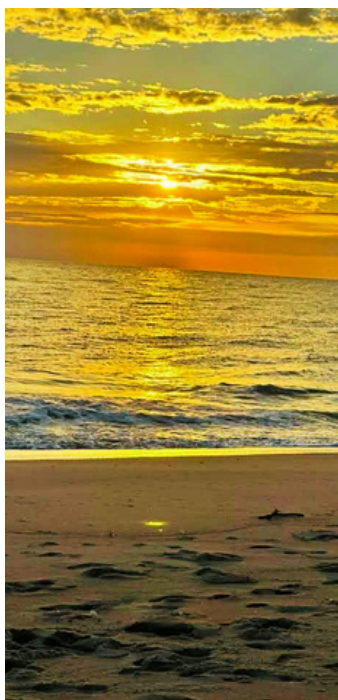
Enjoy the rest of your summer!

-Bill





A B R I G H T FUTURE



YOUR OPINIONS HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF DEWEY BEACH

The Town of Dewey Beach is updating its Comprehensive Plan—a long-range guide that helps shape decisions about land use, transportation, housing, environmental stewardship, public facilities, economic development, and the overall future of our community. Your feedback is an important part of this process.

Please take a few minutes to complete our brief survey and share your thoughts. Whether you're a year-round resident, business owner, property owner, or visitor, your input will help ensure the Comprehensive Plan reflects the community's priorities and vision for the years ahead. Together, we can help shape the future of Dewey Beach.

[VISITOR SURVEY](#)

[RESIDENT/RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY OWNER SURVEY](#)

[BUSINESS OWNER SURVEY](#)

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..



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.

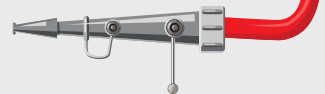


Join the Town of Dewey Beach in supporting our local heroes in their mission to continue providing life-saving service to our area. From July 1st - September 12th, the Town of Dewey Beach will match donations up to a grand total of **\$15,000!**

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.





LIVING FOSSILS

CELEBRATING DEWEY'S ORIGINAL RESIDENTS

One of the most fascinating creatures found along the shores of Dewey Beach is the horseshoe crab. Often called a "living fossil," the horseshoe crab has existed on Earth for an astonishing 445 million years - more than 200 million years before the first dinosaurs appeared. Having survived multiple mass extinctions and countless changes to the planet, these remarkable animals remain largely unchanged from their ancient ancestors, making them one of nature's greatest success stories and a unique part of Delaware's coastal ecosystem.

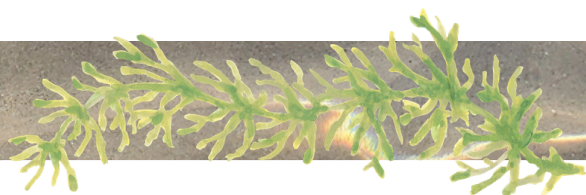
Although horseshoe crabs may look intimidating, they are completely harmless to people. They cannot bite, sting, or pinch, and their long, pointed tail - called a telson - is not a weapon. Instead, the telson acts like a rudder for steering and helps the crab flip itself back over if it ends up upside down. If you encounter a horseshoe crab, enjoy observing this incredible ancient animal from a respectful distance and let it continue its journey undisturbed.

SAFE HANDLING

While horseshoe crabs are harmless, they are still wild animals and should be handled with care. If you need to move one that is stranded or upside down, gently hold the sides of its shell and use both hands to support its weight. Never lift a horseshoe crab by its tail, as the telson is a sensitive body part used for balance and movement—not a handle. After helping it, place it back on the sand facing toward the water and allow it to continue on its way.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Horseshoe crabs are not true crabs at all! They are more closely related to spiders and scorpions than to blue crabs or other crustaceans.
- Horseshoe crabs may look simple, but they actually have multiple eyes and light sensors across their bodies to help them navigate, detect movement, and sense changes in their environment.



A REMARKABLE BLUE BLOOD

One of the most fascinating things about horseshoe crabs is their unusual blue blood. Unlike humans, whose blood is red because it uses iron-based hemoglobin to carry oxygen, horseshoe crabs use a copper-based molecule called hemocyanin, which turns their blood bright blue when exposed to oxygen. Their blood has also played an important role in modern medicine, helping scientists detect bacterial contamination in vaccines, medications, and medical equipment.

This ancient animal continues to make a remarkable contribution to human health while remaining an important part of our coastal ecosystem.

Learn more - and get up close and personal - with horseshoe crabs and other wildlife at the [DuPont Nature Center](#)! Follow them on [Facebook](#) for the latest news and events.



calm before the storm

NOW IS THE TIME TO PREPARE FOR STORM SEASON

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

Hurricane season has arrived. Here is your reminder to prepare now for potential severe storms.

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The hurricane season 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 text "DEWEY" to 24639 to receive severe weather alerts. Prepare now for a potential storm event. For more information on storm preparedness, visit preparede.org.



SKIM USA

dewey's favorite sport



Skimboarding is deeply rooted in the Dewey Beach culture.

The success and popularity of Dewey's skimboarding community can be largely credited to Harry Wilson, who started selling his own Sandpiper Skimboards in the mid 70's right here in Dewey. He's witnessed and participated in the evolution of not just the board itself, but the sport as a whole.

While skimboarding was starting to pick up speed in Hawaii and California, Wilson put Delaware on the map with his creation of the East Coast Skimboard Championships in 1982. He later formed Skim USA, which connected local skimboarders with the larger competition circuit happening on the west coast. While Skim USA has since changed hands, we have Wilson to thank for getting the Dewey skim wave rolling.

The culmination of the Skim USA tour each year, the Zap Pro/Am World Championships of Skimboarding is where the top amateur skimboarders of the world gather to vie for a spot on the podium.

This year is the 44th anniversary of the contest, which is a three-day event that has live music, great food, and an amazing skimboarding competition, all in the heart of the skimboarding capital of the East Coast, Dewey Beach!



*Click
for
more
info!*

**Friday, August 7th through
Sunday, August 9th**

**On the Beach at McKinley
Avenue**

While you can catch skimboarding action anytime here in Dewey, the Zap Pro/Am Championship is a must-see to learn more about the sport, meet the pros, and watch world-class skimboarding athletes ride the waves to gold!

Resiliency & Sustainability

Committee Update

In April, 2025, the Town Council voted to direct the Resiliency & Sustainability Committee to undertake work that would result in development of a resilience plan for the Town. Many neighboring towns have undertaken similar work, and some are actively working on projects that will improve their capacity to plan for, recover from and adapt to the impacts of rising seas, increased storm frequency/ severity, and other consequences of climate change. Such plans should be addressed at least once every ten years.

After months of research, the Committee recommended engaging the services of GMB, Inc. to develop a resiliency plan for Dewey Beach. GMB is an engineering firm with extensive experience — both in developing and implementing coastal resiliency plans, and has performed work for some of our neighboring towns.

The Town Council, at their April, 2026 meeting, approved hiring GMB, Inc. to develop a resiliency plan and approved a \$75,000 budget for the project. The Infrastructure Committee, at their May, 2026 meeting, approved the funding for the project from the Town's infrastructure budget.

The project is expected to take approximately ten months to complete, with work beginning in June, 2026. The resiliency plan, when completed, will:

- Identify effective strategies for at-risk areas which may potentially have a positive impact on flood insurance rates and interactions with FEMA;
- Recommend short, medium and long-term projects that will increase the Town's ability to meet the challenges of climate change;
- Recommend an education plan to improve understanding of the challenges/risks of climate change, as well as realistic solutions for those challenges; and
- Identify possible funding sources for future projects





**HURRY!
SALES END
SEPT. 7TH!**

DEWEY BEACH

Walk of Fame

LEGENDS ★ HISTORY ★ MEMORIES

**ONE TOWN.
THOUSANDS OF STORIES.
SET YOURS IN STONE!**



LEARN MORE



DONATE

Beyond THE STANDS

Thank you, Dewey
Beach Patrol, for
another outstanding
season of the Junior
Lifeguard Program!



TOWN ELECTION

SEPTEMBER 19, 2026

Be Ready to Vote This Summer!

STEP 1 - REGISTER TO VOTE

Make sure you're registered to vote by checking the [registered voter list](#) posted on the town website. This list is updated periodically. Voter registration is open all year long, closing only during the 30 days prior to the election. If you are already registered, you do not need to register again. Those who wish to register to vote can fill out the voter registration form [here](#). Only individuals who are at least 18 years of age and either bonafide residents, property owners, tenants, or trustees may register to vote. Applicants must meet the criteria outlined in the [Town Charter](#).

STEP 2 - MEET THE COUNCIL

Do you know your local leaders? Read more about the Dewey Beach Town Commissioners [here](#). Our elected officials are devoted individuals with a passion for public service. The best way to get to know your local government officials is to attend or watch the monthly Town Council meetings. View the town meeting calendar on the homepage of our [website](#) for upcoming meetings and topics up for discussion. Watch live meetings, or view the archive on our [YouTube channel](#).

STEP 4 - MEET THE CANDIDATES

Eligible individuals who wish to file as a candidate for the 2026 election should complete the [form](#) on our website.

Once filings are received, candidates up for election will be posted on our website. Check back often! Registration continues through August 20th!

STEP 3 - STAY IN THE KNOW

Keep an eye on the [2026 Election Calendar](#) for important dates! We'll also post election news on our [website](#).

August 20th: Candidate filing and voter registration deadline.

August 21st: Notice of Election*

August 24th: Absentee voting begins! Cast your vote at Town Hall during business hours, or [request a ballot by mail](#).

September 18th: Absentee voting closes at noon.

September 19th: Election Day! Cast your vote at the Dewey Beach Town Hall between 10:00am and 6:00pm.

**Two seats are up for election. If no more than two candidates file, there will be no commissioner election for 2026.*

what's happening

don't miss these activities in and around dewey!



AUGUST 8TH

Fours for Fun Volleyball Tournament
8/8 - 8/9
St. Louis & Houston Beach



AUGUST 11TH

Restaurant Olympics



AUG 29TH

Election Candidates Forum



Book a Bonfire

Private bonfires are available for booking year-round here in Dewey!

Monday Movies on the Beach

Hurry! Last day to catch a movie on the beach is August 24th!

Wednesday Bonfires on the Beach

Join the fun! The last community bonfire for this season is August 26th!

Beach Events

August is the best time to watch some of our most talented skimboarders take to the surf!

Don't miss the Skim USA Championships, or check out the skimboarding camps happening daily here in Dewey Beach!

db news

BRIEF

QUICK UPDATES YOU SHOULD KNOW!



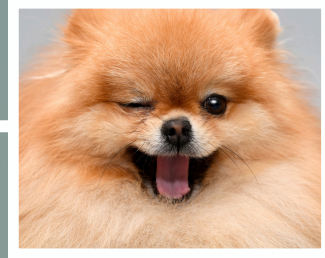
USLA Championships

The Dewey Beach Patrol will compete in the annual USLA Championships in Ft. Lauderdale, FL August 5 - 7. Support the DBP by donating online [here](#). Donations in any amount are greatly appreciated!



New Town Hall

We're getting closer to officially opening the new Dewey Beach Town Hall & Public Safety Building! We can't wait to welcome you! Stay tuned for our official opening, slated for September!



Dewey Dog Day

Dewey Dog Day is back for 2026 with more vendors, more activities, and more fun! We'll keep you updated as plans take shape for this family-friendly event coming up in September!

Good News



Congratulations to Marshall Keys, Dewey Beach Patrol's 2026 Rookie of the Year! Each summer, Dewey Beach's newest lifeguards put their strength, endurance, and lifesaving skills to the test during the annual Rookie Competition. This challenging event combines athletic ability with the real-world skills needed to protect our shoreline, featuring open-water rescue simulations, stand pulls, and other tests designed to showcase teamwork, speed, and preparedness.

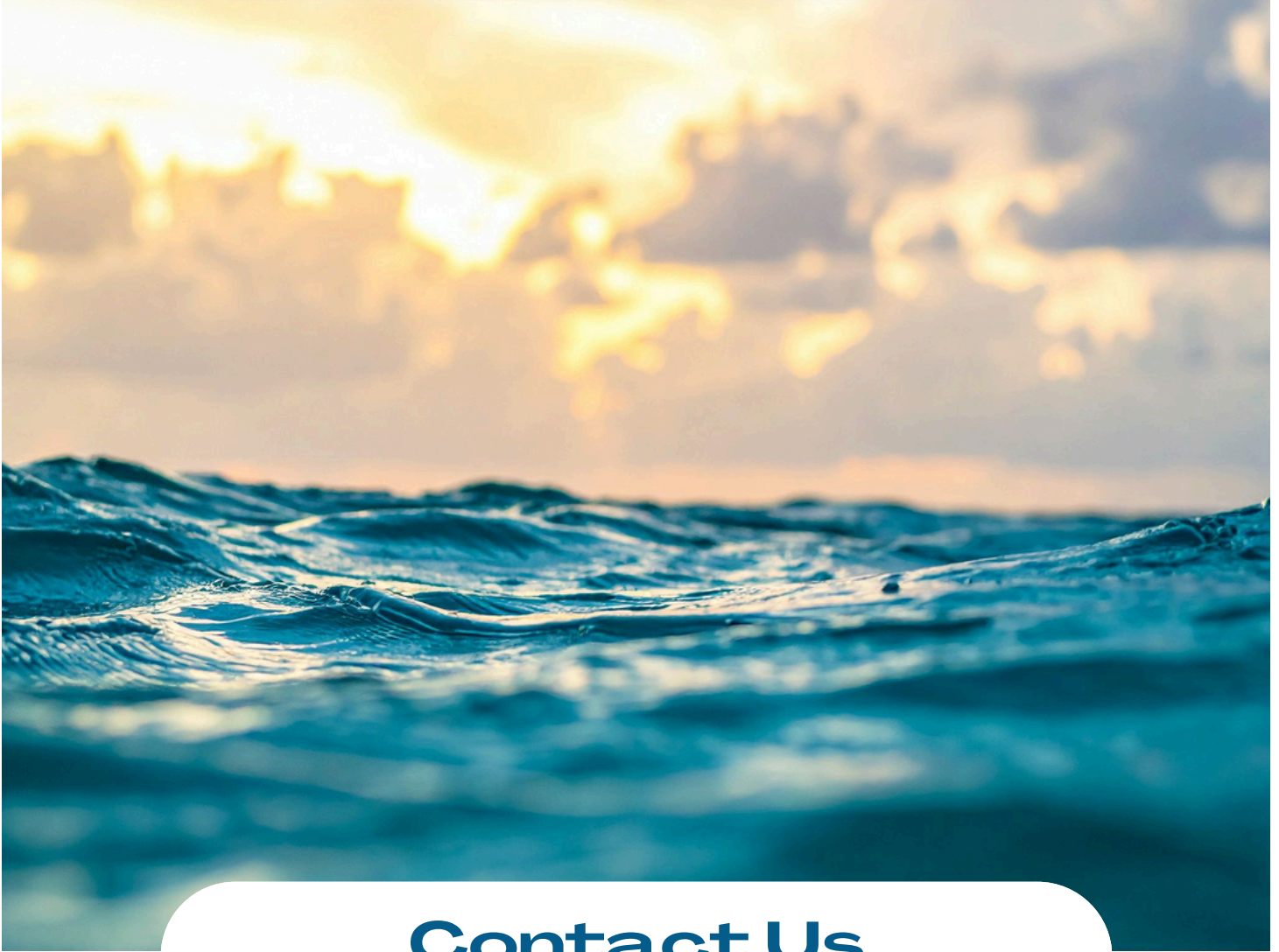
Are you registered on the [Dewey Beach Services Portal](#)?
Subscribe to newsletters, and register for alerts related to all things Dewey!

Upcoming Meetings

August 6th - Audit Committee
August 10th - Finance Committee
August 12th - Comprehensive Plan Committee
August 20th - Resiliency & Sustainability Committee
August 21st - Town Council
August 26th - Planning Commission

Learn More





Contact Us

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Website

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