

OCTOBER 2026

DELAWARE'S FAVORITE PLAYGROUND

Official Newsletter of The Town of Dewey Beach



Spooky Season Has Arrived!

The days are getting shorter, the air is getting cooler, and Dewey Beach is getting a little spookier! October brings Halloween fun, creative costumes, decorated homes and businesses, and plenty of reasons to enjoy our beach town in its quieter fall season. Whether you're dressing up, handing out treats, taking the dog for a Halloween stroll, or simply enjoying a sunset without the summer crowds, there's something special about October in Dewey Beach. So grab your favorite fall beverage, put on your best Halloween spirit, and see what's happening around Town this month. Just remember—there's no place like Dewey for a little Halloween magic!

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...and more!





TOWN MANAGER'S UPDATE

The End of the Summer Party and the 2nd Annual Dewey Dog Day were a huge success. These types of events are what makes Dewey Beach such a special place! Then Fall came in with one of the strongest Nor'easter storms in recent history. The dunes did their job and held the ocean back. There were some material losses on the beach, but nothing that can't be replaced. On the bayside, it was a different story. With the full moon, we had major flooding on all the bayside streets. The pump station on Bayard Ave had to be shut down to keep the pumps from overheating because the bay water, during the highest tide, breached the berm. Once the tide receded, the pumps went back into operation and cleared the water off the streets.

The town is attempting to mitigate flooding from the bayside with three projects: Read Ave Pump Station (\$1 million grant from Senator Coons Office), Dickinson Ave Check Valve Project (\$45,000 Community Transportation Fund grant from State Reps. Claire Hall and Senator Huxtable), and Van Dyke Ave Pump Station (\$2.5 million grant applied for through Rep. McBride, pending approval). These projects will help stop a majority of flooding in Dewey Beach, but may not alleviate all flooding from the bay.

So, what else has the town done to help mitigate damage from flooding?

- Raised the Base Flood Evaluation from BFE +1' to BFE +2' with an option to go to 3'
- Raised the requirement for all HVAC and plumbing to be located above the elevation of the lowest floor
- Accepted into the Sussex County Hazard Mitigation Program

Along with these changes and our two currently funded flood mitigation projects (and possibly a third project), we can help reduce damage from storms like the recent Nor'easter. The town's last Community Rating Score (CRS) review was determined from 2016 to 2021. During that time, the town dropped from a CRS rating of 8 to a 9. With the recent town code changes and our current flood projects, these will help improve the town's CRS score during its next review.

The town has been pro-active regarding possible funding for beach renourishment since the storm. The Mayor met with the Governor on September 29th to discuss the need for beach renourishment. On October 2nd the Mayor, Commissioner Bauer, and myself met with Senator Coons, Rep. McBride, Senator Huxtable, Rep. Hall, DNREC Secretary Greg Patterson, and Army Corp Rep. from the Philadelphia District Peter Gori to discuss the importance of funding for beach renourishment for Dewey Beach. Senator Coons, with the support of the others, will be requesting \$30 million for Delaware beach renourishment in this year's federal budget. Secretary Patterson has directed DNREC to evaluate and attempt to restore the dune crossings from Fenwick to Rehoboth.

I want to thank everyone that helped during the storm especially our CODE RED team, police officers, and maintenance team!!

**Bill
Zolper**

Dewey Beach
Town Manager



The New
**DEWEY BEACH
TOWN HALL**

All Are Welcome!

COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE EVENT

4:00 - 6:00PM

11 | 07 | 26

1505 COASTAL HWY
DEWEY BEACH, DE 19971

PROPERTY OWNERS

Fall Reminders

Building Permits

Fall is a peak time for property owners to catch up on maintenance or renovations of their property. New legislation was approved to make it easier for property owners to complete work on their homes and businesses! Check out our [website](#) to see if your job requires a notification of work, or a building permit.



Property Watch

Are you planning to be out of town for the off-season? Make sure we have up-to-date contact information by submitting a [Property Watch form](#). If we're alerted to any issues related to your home, such as water leaks, storm damage, or suspicious activity, we'll be sure to contact you.



Accommodations Tax

Did you rent your property between April 1st and September 30th? Your accommodations tax payment is due by October 15th!

The accommodations tax rate is 3% of your gross proceeds derived from your rental.

We make it easy to submit your form, payment and receipts online [here](#).

Do you have questions about the accommodations tax? Visit our [website](#), or call us at (302) 227-6363.



Dewey Beach Patrol 2027

MAKE WAVES SAVE LIVES

Join the Dewey Beach Patrol

Make a Difference. Live the Adventure.

Looking for a summer that's anything but ordinary? If you're physically fit, confident, and ready to make a difference, becoming a beach lifeguard could be the perfect opportunity for you. Spend your summer on the beach, stay active, build lifelong friendships, and gain valuable skills while helping keep your community safe.

It's more than a summer job—it's an experience filled with purpose, adventure, teamwork, and unforgettable moments. Get fit, get outside, make a difference, and make this a summer you'll never forget.

JOB BENEFITS

- Open Water Rescue Training & National Certification
- National Emergency Medical Responder Certification
- Competitive salary, uniform and gear provided
- Athletic enhancement and competition opportunities
- Make new friends and unforgettable life experiences!

FOR MORE INFORMATION

📞 (302) 227-6363 🌐 townofdeweybeach.gov

📍 1505 Coastal Highway, Dewey Beach DE

APPLY NOW





keep dewey blooming

Fall is a great time to enjoy Dewey Beach, and we're doing our part to keep our town blooming for as long as possible! October 25th is our Fall Planting Day, and we'll be sprucing up our bloom boxes with colorful pansies to last throughout the colder season.

get involved

There are lots of ways to help support Dewey in Bloom! Many of our volunteers leave town for the off-season, and we can always use more help! Reach out if you're available to help on Fall Planting Day, or can help water plants throughout the off-season.

donate

We're always collecting donations in any amount to help continue our project! Donations are used for replacement flowers, soil, and gardening equipment. If you like what you see coming from Dewey in Bloom, support us here!

fall planting day 
 **october 25**

annual SEAWITCH FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 22 - 25

RATED ONE OF THE TOP 10 FALL FESTIVALS NATIONWIDE BY USA TODAY!



REHOBOTH EVENTS

Our neighbor to the north, Rehoboth Beach, keeps the fun going all weekend long with parades, costume contests, vendors, family-friendly activities, games, and more!



TRICK-OR-TREAT

Enjoy trick-or-treating in Dewey Beach on Friday, October 23rd from 6:30pm - 7:30pm. Your favorite Dewey businesses will be serving up the treats! All are welcome!



BAY BEACH FUN

Activities abound on the Dickinson Bay Beach from Thursday 10/22 - Saturday 10/24! Enjoy the Haunted Graveyard, bonfire, DJ dance party and pop-up stage show, right on the beach!



OCTOBER

meet
&
greet



Fall is one of the best times to meet the members of the Dewey Beach Police Department - and grab some treats while you're at it! As summer winds down, our officers look forward to connecting with our community in Dewey and beyond. We hope you'll join us for these family-friendly events this month!



Dagsboro PD Night Out Dagsboro, DE - October 1st →

Faith & Blue Celebration Newark, DE - October 1st →

Cops & Goblins Ocean View, DE - October 24th →

Georgetown DMV Trunk-or-Treat Georgetown, DE - October 29th →





Trash Collection

UPDATE

Some homeowners may notice a slight increase in their trash service bill. Our trash collection provider recently completed an audit of service levels throughout Town and adjusted accounts based on the service actually being provided.

Here's the difference:

Curbside Service: Residents place their trash totes at the curb or roadside for collection. The collection crew does not leave the roadway to retrieve the totes.

Valet Service: The collection crew retrieves the totes from beside, behind, or at the home or apartment and brings them to the roadside for collection. This is an additional level of service.

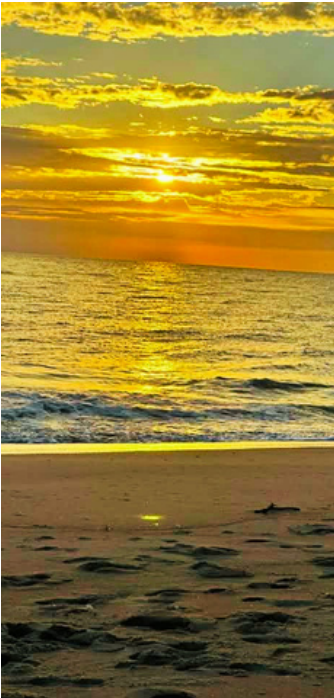
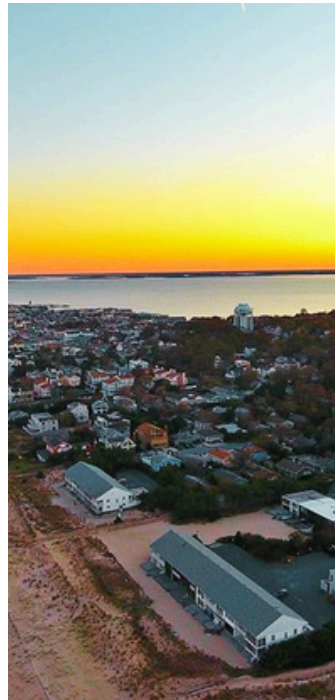
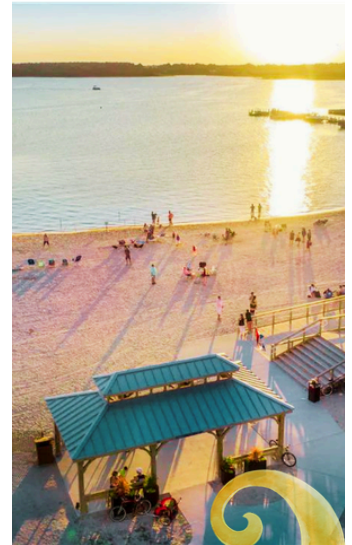
The majority of properties in Town currently receive valet service, even though some accounts had previously been billed at the curbside rate. Following the recent audit, those accounts were adjusted to reflect the valet service being provided.

We appreciate your understanding and thank our residents for helping our collection crews keep trash service running efficiently throughout Dewey Beach.





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](#)

what's happening

don't miss these activities in and around dewey!

OCT 3RD



Dewey Goes Pink



Book a Bonfire

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

Dewey in Bloom Planting Day

On October 25th, beautiful fall flowers will deck out Dewey Beach!

Town Hall Open House

November 7th from 4:00pm – 6:00pm, check out the new Dewey Beach Town Hall!

Holiday Happenings

The fun doesn't stop after summertime ends! The holiday season is around the corner! Stay tuned for more details on holiday events here in Dewey Beach!

OCT 8TH - 11TH



Greyhounds Reach the Beach



OCT 22ND - 24TH

Dewey Beach Sea Witch

db news

BRIEF

QUICK UPDATES YOU SHOULD KNOW!



Walk of Fame

Thank you to everyone who supported the new Town Hall by buying a brick for the Walk of Fame! The anticipated delivery date for our bricks is the end of October. The bricks will be installed as soon as possible upon delivery. We'll keep you updated when the Walk of Fame is complete!



We're Moving!

Town staff is planning the move to our new building at 1505 Coastal Highway. Temporary administrative office closures may be necessary, and will be announced as soon as possible. The Police Department dispatch center will continue to operate with no interruptions.



Town Meetings

The new Town Hall building will serve as the meeting space for all Town Council and committee meetings. Once completed, meetings will no longer be held at the Lifesaving Station. Pay close attention to meeting agendas for location information!

Good News



Each year, the Town of Dewey Beach presents a donation to the Rehoboth Beach Volunteer Fire Company in appreciation of their continued service and support to our community. This year, the Town presented a \$15,000 check at the annual End of Season Party hosted by the Dewey Beach Business Partnership. Thank you to our residents that generously donated to make this contribution possible!

[Read more from The Cape Gazette](#)

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

Upcoming Meetings

October 9th – Town Council
October 13th – Planning Commission
October 14th – Comp Plan Committee
October 20th – Board of Adjustment
October 27th – Charter & Code

LEARN MORE 





Contact Us

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

Visit the Town
Website

View the Staff
Directory

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