

JUNE 2026

DELAWARE'S FAVORITE PLAYGROUND

Official Newsletter of The Town of Dewey Beach



Sweet Summertime

Summer is officially underway in Dewey Beach! We're welcoming back the Dewey Beach Patrol as lifeguards return to the sand and prepare for another season of sun, surf, and keeping our beaches safe. We also take a look at the annual return of the "Junebugs", and share a few friendly reminders to help everyone enjoy their time in town. Plus, with more people walking, biking, and crossing our streets, we spotlight pedestrian safety and simple ways we can all help keep Dewey Beach safe and enjoyable for residents and visitors alike. Here's to a fun, safe and unforgettable summer in Dewey!



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TOWN MANAGER'S

Update

We welcome back summer in Dewey with our great beaches, family gatherings, fabulous restaurants, live music, and those beautiful sunsets over the bay.

We continue to improve the center island by planting over 250 small lavender and thyme perennials plants and flowers from Read Avenue to Bellevue Street. Over the next two years, we hope these plants will grow, take shape, and enhance the beauty of the center island. Each year we will continue to plant hardy perennials in the center island.

The new Town Hall & Public Safety Building (Phase I) is progressing well with painting, flooring, and carpet currently being installed. The contractor thinks we may be able to move in around August 1st. Once we have moved into the new building, Phase II will start which will house the police sally port and paramedics station.

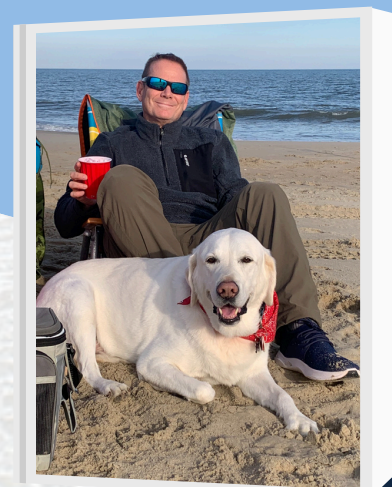
I want to remind everyone not to put household trash in the public trash cans. Your large bags of trash fill the public cans which in turn spill over into the street. The fine is up to \$500.00 for this violation.

Yard debris should not be left in the town right-of-way. Currently on McKinley Ave oceanside homeowners have decided to leave a large pile of tree limbs at the dune crossing. Homeowners are reminded to contact Casella 302-410-7553 to remove all tree limbs and yard waste from their property.

Our lifeguards, parking and dog ambassadors, and summer officers are out there to assist you and keep you safe. If you should have any questions about parking, dogs on the beach, and the rules of the beach or town please just ask. They are there to help you!

Let's have a great summer!

-Bill



Pedestrian Safety

Dewey Beach isn't just a vacation destination - it's a major thruway for traffic headed to enjoy other areas of our coast. For a pedestrian-heavy town like Dewey, this makes public safety an uphill battle for not just town staff, but state agencies as well. Curb bump-outs, electric signage, crossing beacons and crosswalk markings certainly help, but we also remain committed to educating our visitors on what you can do to keep yourself and your family safe while enjoying Dewey Beach.



Caution in Crosswalks

While state law requires drivers to yield to pedestrians *in* a crosswalk, this doesn't mean that you should cross the street without regard for oncoming traffic. Never assume that drivers will see you, or that they will stop. Hit the button on the crosswalk beacon, and wait until traffic is stopped in both lanes before you step onto the roadway. Like it or not - it is legal for cars to proceed through the crosswalk when the lights are flashing, *provided* no one is on the roadway - therefore, do not assume vehicles will stop for the flashing yellow lights.



Dewey Beach Police

In 2025, Dewey Beach Police performed 4182 hours of traffic enforcement, while also answering 6506 calls for service. For such a small town, our PD is quite busy, especially during the summer! If you spend any length of time in Dewey Beach, you're aware that our PD maintains a very strong presence throughout town, 24/7. In addition to continued traffic enforcement, the PD will also be ticketing for jaywalking, in an attempt to dissuade pedestrians from darting across the highway. Please cross the street only at the crosswalks.



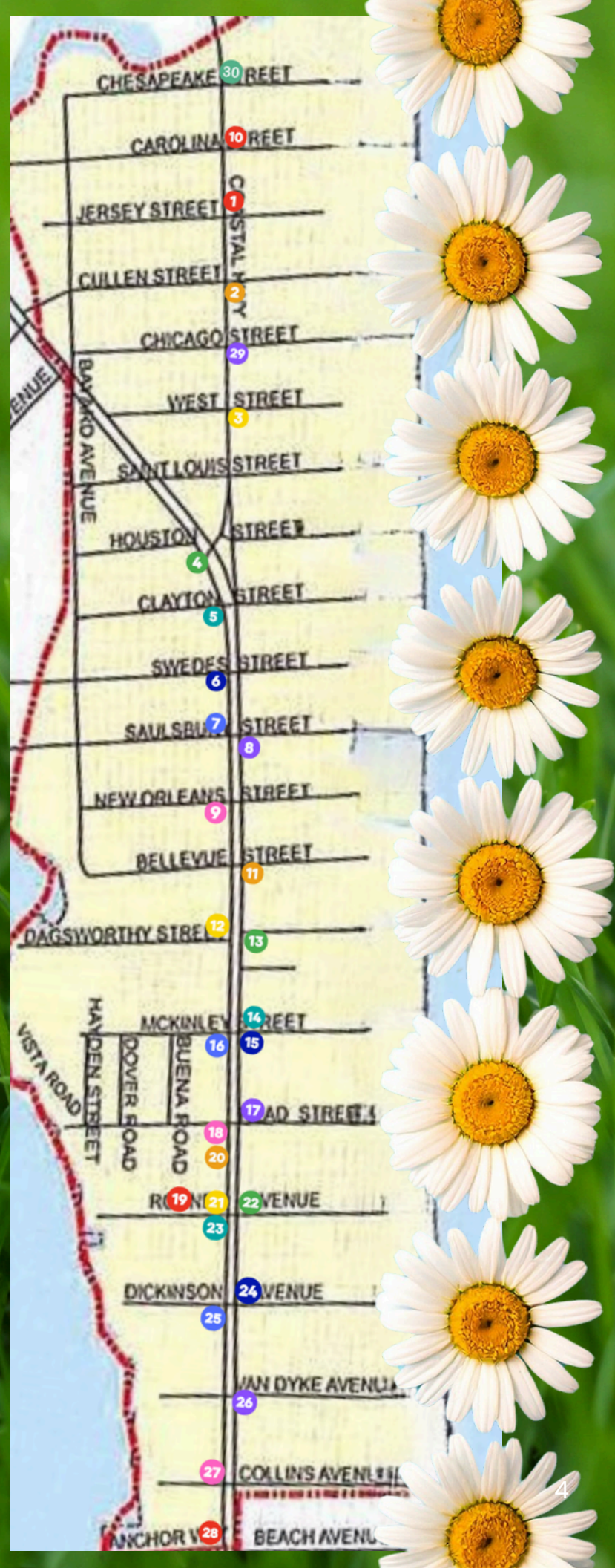
Your Safety is Paramount

Thousands of vehicles pass through Dewey Beach every day. Ideally, we could hold every unsafe driver accountable - it just simply isn't feasible. While the 25mph speed limit and warning signage are helpful, we can't guarantee the diligence of every driver. This is why we focus so much of our efforts on our "Dewey Beach Family" - those that live or vacation here, who we can properly advise on how to take control of their own safety, and ensure their time in Dewey Beach is memorable for all the right reasons.



thank you sponsors!

1. Jersey St. Neighbors
2. Goodman Gable Gould Company
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4. Bobbie Redefer & Family
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25. Bruce & Ellen Pearlman
26. Diane Hanson
27. The Cove Owners Association
28. Anchor Way Neighbors
29. Carin Patterson
30. Sandy & Norm Singer





junebug season

Every summer, Dewey Beach welcomes the return of a familiar seasonal visitor: the Junebug. Around town, the term refers to teenagers who are old enough to enjoy some independence but not yet old enough for the nightlife that makes Dewey famous. Ask a resident, business owner, police officer, or town employee about Junebugs, and you'll likely hear a few stories - these young visitors have a knack for finding adventure, and occasionally a little trouble.

But despite their reputation, Junebugs are an important part of the fabric of a Dewey summer. Many are experiencing the beach town on their own for the first time, making memories with friends that they'll talk about for years. Our goal isn't to discourage them from coming - it's quite the opposite. We welcome them to Dewey Beach and want them to have a great time. We simply ask that they do so safely, responsibly, and with respect for the community they're visiting.

Know Before You Go

Dewey Beach has a curfew in place for anyone under the age of 18. The curfew runs from 11:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. every day, and applies to public places throughout town, including streets, sidewalks, parks, and the beach. The goal is to help promote public safety, reduce late-night disturbances, and ensure that young visitors can enjoy their vacation responsibly.

There are several common-sense exceptions. Minors may be out during curfew hours if they are accompanied by a parent or guardian, traveling directly to or from work, conducting legitimate business directed by a parent, or returning home from a school, religious, governmental, or nonprofit-sponsored activity within one hour of its conclusion. For families planning a visit to Dewey Beach, a quick conversation about the curfew can help avoid an unexpected encounter with law enforcement and keep everyone's summer memories focused on the fun parts of vacation.

Contact

Questions or concerns about the minor curfew or visiting Dewey Beach with teens? [Contact us!](#) We're happy to help!

A Note for Parents

For parents, it's worth noting that Dewey Beach offers plenty for teens to enjoy during the day - beach time, recreation, and time with friends in a lively but family-friendly atmosphere. However, after 11:00 p.m., Dewey transitions into a largely adult-oriented environment. For that reason, the Dewey Beach Police ask that parents ensure their children are off the streets and back in their lodging before curfew, primarily to ensure their safety and avoid unnecessary encounters in a late-night setting not intended for unsupervised minors.

Interacting With Law Enforcement

Officers are here to ensure public safety, provide assistance, and keep situations from escalating. Parents can help prepare their kids for interactions with officers. Teaching teens to listen, remain calm, and comply with reasonable directions helps ensure encounters are safe and resolved quickly. Even simple reminders - keep hands visible, avoid arguments, ask questions politely - can make a meaningful difference. The goal is not to discourage independence, but to help young visitors navigate a lively beach town responsibly and safely. A little preparation at home can ensure a safe experience for everyone!



BE A STAR
IN DEWEY
BEACH!

DEWEY BEACH

Walk of Fame

LEGENDS ★ HISTORY ★ MEMORIES

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



LEARN MORE





Welcome Back

DEWEY BEACH PATROL

Since 1981, the Dewey Beach Patrol has been maintaining the safety of the shores of Dewey Beach. Under the direction of Captain Todd Fritchman and Lieutenants Liam Zolper, Hadley Rhue, Charles Fritchman, Patrick Williamson, Hunter Jones, Ben Sala, Mikey Thompson and Chris Conaway, the lifeguards of Dewey Beach have saved hundreds of lives, and helped thousands of beachgoers have safe and enjoyable summers. Since 2000, the patrol has recovered over 774 lost children, and responded to more than 1000 major medical emergencies, including cardiac arrest patients.

In order to maintain high standards and outstanding performance, the lifeguards of Dewey Beach, led by Section Lieutenants Ben Sala and Jason Kaiser, must undergo rigorous physical training and educational coursework. The Dewey Beach Patrol is nationally accredited by the United States Lifesaving Association (USLA) to certify its members in open water rescue. This means a great deal of hard work for all of those lifeguards involved. Each guard is certified in First Responder Response, as well as open water rescue techniques, and must have at least thirty hours of physical training. All of this training keeps the Dewey Beach lifeguards in peak physical condition, and prepared for any emergency that may arise around the ocean or bay.



Beyond THE STANDS

JUNIOR LIFEGUARD PROGRAM

Do you know a child or teen interested in becoming a lifeguard? The DBP Junior Lifeguard Program is perfect for kids who love the beach, physical activity, helping others, and learning more about our coastal environment.

This fun and educational program is geared towards ages 6 - 16. Participants are provided with instruction from the Dewey Beach Lifeguard Captain, as well as veteran members of the patrol and EMS in lifesaving history, lifeguard qualification and training, health, fitness, and safety, the marine environment, water surveillance, rescue equipment, weather hazards, the surf beach, and more!

Upon completion of the program, participants receive official membership in the USLA. Official Dewey Beach Patrol shorts and logo t-shirts are provided. Participants must meet certain criteria outlined on our website. [Click here](#) for more information and registration!

DONATE

Your donations keep the DBP outreach programs coming back year after year!



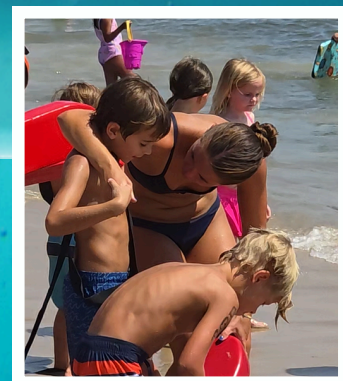
YOUTH RECREATION

Join the local heroes of the DBP for Youth Recreation every evening on the beach at Dagsworthy Avenue!

A variety of equipment and activities will be provided, including but not limited to t-ball, whiffle ball, rubber horseshoes, beanbag toss, ring toss, tetherball, STX lacrosse (no contact), rubber footballs, soccer, basketball and volleyball.

The Dewey Beach Lifeguards will provide supervision of the recreation areas, basic skill instruction as needed or requested, and officiating of team activities.

This is a great opportunity to hang out with the DBP, enjoy the beach, make new friends, and learn new skills. No registration required, and participation is free! [Click here](#) for more information!



Making Waves

MEET DBP LIEUTENANT HADLEY RHUE



For seven summers, Hadley Rhue has been a familiar face on the beaches of Dewey, helping keep residents and visitors safe as a member of the Dewey Beach Patrol. When she's not on the sand, she works as a special education teacher, bringing the same patience, dedication, and care to her classroom that she does to her role on patrol. Now serving as a lieutenant, she has grown from a young lifeguard into one of the patrol's leaders, combining experience, compassion, and a strong commitment to public safety every day. We sat down with Hadley to learn more about her journey with the DBP, what she loves about the work, and her favorite memories from seven seasons on the stand.

WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO THE DEWEY BEACH PATROL?

I've always had a passion for fitness and a love for the beach. A good friend of mine was a rookie the year before I joined, and it seemed like the best job ever! I still do, in fact, think it is the best job ever.

AS A WOMAN IN A MALE-DOMINATED CAREER FIELD, WHAT WOULD YOU TELL A YOUNG GIRL WHO'D LIKE TO FOLLOW IN YOUR FOOTSTEPS?

Believing in yourself and working hard can take you anywhere. I hope to inspire young girls to pursue their goals with confidence and never let anyone convince them they can't do something. Having a strong mindset is the most powerful tool you can have.

WHO'S TOUGHER: SEAGULLS, JELLYFISH, OR HOLIDAY WEEKEND CROWDS?

I'd have to give that title to the jellyfish. No one wants to mess with a jelly, especially the out-of-staters, senior week-ers, and families enjoying their beach vacation. Let's all keep our fingers crossed that the jellies aren't nearly as bad as they were during the 2025 season!

WHAT MAKES THE DBP SPECIAL COMPARED TO OTHER BEACH TOWNS?

We are lucky to have a diverse and fun group. We have all ages from 16 - 50+, runners, lacrosse players, soccer players, wrestlers, swimmers, all who make up a strong and unstoppable patrol. It is really special to gain different perspectives, learn new skills, and train athletes at different levels.



WHAT'S ONE THING ONLY A LONGTIME PATROL MEMBER WOULD UNDERSTAND?

Each day on the patrol looks different, and we encounter all kinds of situations throughout the summer. Holiday weekends are some of our busiest days, and while they require extra preparation, they also provide valuable learning experiences. The crowds come to the beach to make memories, relax, and have fun, and it's our job to stay vigilant and help ensure everyone enjoys their time safely.



OK HADLEY. BE HONEST. HOW MANY PAIRS OF SUNGLASSES HAVE YOU LOST TO THE OCEAN?

Among everyone on the patrol, there have probably been hundreds of glasses and sunglasses washed up on the beach. Somehow - knock on wood - I have not lost a single pair of sunglasses to the ocean. I hope to keep my streak going for years to come. Some may say responsible, others may say lucky.

HADLEY'S FINAL THOUGHTS...

I consider myself very lucky to be a part of the Dewey Beach Patrol. I have made amazing friendships, memories, and learned so much from my colleagues and higher-ups. Being a part of the patrol is something I don't take for granted. Anyone who has interest in joining the patrol in future years, I strongly encourage to do so.



Red White & Bloom Kids Bike Parade

July 5th
9:30am - 11:30am

Read Ave Bayside
Dewey Beach

All are welcome!

Decorate your bike and join the fun!



Family Friendly Activities Following Parade!

Hosted by



Thank you, Sponsors!



PATRICE GANCIE

SUE & BERNIE BASZAK



Dewey Beer



TBC Hotels THE BERNSTEIN CO.



Bryce Lingo & Shaun Tull TEAM



NICOLA PIZZA



Scan for more info!

what's happening

don't miss these activities in and around dewey!



JUNE 14TH

Dewey Beach Patrol 5K



JUNE 27TH

Kids Running of the Bull



JULY 4TH

Bay Beach Fireworks



Book a Bonfire

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

Monday Movies on the Beach

Monday movies are back starting June 15th!

Wednesday Bonfires on the Beach

Join us every Wednesday starting June 17th for a free community bonfire on the beach!

Beach Events

From the Volleyball Restaurant League, to Skimboard Camp, there's always something fun happening on the beaches here in Dewey!

Enjoy these recurring events as a spectator, or, join the fun!

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.*

db news

BRIEF

QUICK UPDATES YOU SHOULD KNOW!



Town Hall Hours

Town Hall is operating with summer hours:

Mon - Thurs 8am - 4:30pm
Fri 8am - 6pm
Sat 9am - 3pm
Sun 10am - 2pm



Marijuana Use

Reminder - it is illegal to use marijuana in public spaces throughout the state of Delaware. While adults 21 and over may possess a personal use quantity, using or consuming marijuana in vehicles or public places is prohibited. Learn more about these regulations [here](#).



Celebrate Juneteenth

Town offices will be closed on Friday, June 19th in honor of Juneteenth. Learn more about this celebration of freedom and culture [here](#).

Good News



Steve Montgomery of The Starboard presented two donation checks during the May 15th Town Council meeting. \$25,000 went to the Dewey Beach Police Department, and \$87,638 went to the Rehoboth Beach Volunteer Fire Company. The donations were a result of the annual VIP card sales fundraiser. Thank you, Monty, for your support of our first responders!

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

Upcoming Meetings

June 10th - Comprehensive Development Plan Workshop
June 22nd - Finance Committee Meeting
June 26th - Town Council Meeting
July 7th - Marketing Committee Meeting

Learn More





Contact Us

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

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