

Bethany Beach

NEWSLETTER

Learn about the town's financial health, beach replenishment and more

Final phase of Streetscape will begin in mid-October



DelDOT crews install drainage pipes on the north side of Garfield Parkway during the first phase of the Streetscape Project. The second and final phase, which will focus on the south side of Garfield, is scheduled to start in mid-October.

The second and final phase of the \$2.4 million Streetscape Project to improve safety in downtown Bethany Beach is scheduled to kick off in mid-October.

When the project is completed, there will be wider sidewalks, more pedestrian crossings, new curb ramps and lighting, and improved signage for bicycle lanes. More importantly, parking will be moved from the median to diagonal, head-in parking at the curb, making Garfield Parkway a much safer street during the busy summer season.

The first phase started in February and

involved the reconstruction of the north side of Garfield Parkway. During the next phase, construction will take place on the south side of the 100 block of Garfield Parkway and in the horseshoe. Sidewalk improvements and repaving will also be done in the 200 block of Garfield Parkway, on both the north and south side.

The project is funded by the Delaware Department of Transportation's First State Trails and Pathways Program, which is designed to improve pedestrian and vehicle safety.

Water tower work progresses

On Sept. 8, 2012, Bethany Beach voters overwhelmingly approved a referendum that allowed the Town to seek funding for the construction of a second and much-needed new water tower.

While the Town actively worked through the loan process, engineers began to design the new system and plan for its installation.

In December, the Town was able to close on a loan that provided the necessary \$2.6 million for the project at an incredible interest rate of 2.13 percent for 20 years. The Town's fiscal strength is such that the Town Council supports paying the loan down over a much shorter term to save on the financing costs of the loan.

This April, the Town Council approved a contract with Caldwell Tanks for the construction of the new tower and the Town is confident the project will come in well under budget. In addition, site work has begun at the Collins Street water plant in anticipation of the construction of the tower, and the actual construction of the tank's foundation is set to begin this September. The tank should be fully operational by June 2014.

FROM THE MAYOR'S OFFICE

Request your ballot now!

Hello to all! I hope you have enjoyed the summer despite so many gray and rainy days. Although we have certainly been busy in Bethany Beach, the bad weather has resulted in fewer visitors to our beautiful community than in recent years.

We have a lot to report in this newsletter as many positive things are underway. Please take the time to see what is happening in our community and, as always, if you have any questions, concerns or comments, please ask and we will answer.

Our election is rapidly approaching and this promises to be a lively election season with seven candidates running for three open seats on the Town Council. Longtime Councilwoman and former Mayor Carol Olmstead has decided not to seek office this year. After a decade on the Town Council, Carol has decided a little rest and recreation is in order. Carol will be sorely missed as she has worked long and selflessly on behalf of Bethany Beach. In addition, this year Councilman Jerry Dorfman, our Treasurer, and

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IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Emergency	911
Beach Patrol	302-539-8114
Police	302-529-1000
Parking	302-539-1000
Fire Company	302-539-7700
Event Hotline	302-539-5484
Town Hall	302-539-8011
Town Manager	302-537-3771
Water Dept.	302-537-0851
Building Insp.	302-539-8780
Public Works	302-539-1339



Bethany Beach Mayor Tony McClenny addresses the crowd on Périers Day, July 27. In 2010, the Town formed a sister city relationship with Périers, France, which was liberated by the 90th Infantry Division of the U.S. Army. To watch video of the event, visit the town's website, www.townofbethanybeach.com, and click on "Media Center."

Make your vote count

There are several ways to cast your ballot in September

- Vote in person on Election Day, Sept. 7, from noon-6 p.m. at Bethany Beach Town Hall. Be sure to bring proper identification.
- Vote by absentee ballot in person (one-step, walk-in process). You may vote in person by visiting Town Hall anytime from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday, or on the last three Saturdays in August: Aug. 17, Aug. 24 and Aug. 31. Saturday hours are also 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Ask for the official request form (affidavit) for an absentee ballot, complete the form and return it. You will then be given your absentee ballot. Mark the names of the candidates of your choice, following the instructions very carefully, and hand in your ballot then and there.
- Vote by absentee ballot by mail (two steps). You must obtain, complete and return an official request for an absentee ballot. You can obtain an affidavit by calling Town Hall at (302)

Are you eligible?

Bethany Beach property owners (everyone on the deed up to a maximum of eight people) are automatically registered and eligible to vote in municipal elections. If you have lived in Bethany Beach as a full-time resident for six months or longer, you are eligible to vote, regardless of whether you own property. However, you must register to vote 30 days prior to the election.

537-3771, stopping by the receptionist's window in Town Hall, or downloading a copy at www.townofbethanybeach.com. Click on "Government," then "Elections," then "Absentee Ballot Information." Complete and sign the request form and return it to Town Hall, by mail or in person. When your absentee ballot arrives, complete it with care, follow all of the instructions, and return it to Town Hall, by mail or in person.

By the numbers

- Delaware beaches received \$19.3 million in federal beach replenishment funds to repair damage caused by Hurricane Sandy.
- 1.3 million cubic yards of sand will be pumped in Fenwick, South Bethany, Bethany, Dewey, Rehoboth and Lewes.
- The entire project is expected to take about 90 days.

Source: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



Photo courtesy of the Delmarva Media Group

Beachgoers in Fenwick Island watch as crews from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers replenish the beach.

Beach width an increasing concern

When Superstorm Sandy struck, New Jersey beaches were hit hard. Streets were flooded, power was lost and thousands of residents were left homeless.

Joe Healy, a Bethany Beach councilman and member of the Central East Coast Chapter of the American Shore & Beach Preservation Association, doesn't want that scenario to play out in Bethany Beach.

"If you think beach replenishment is unnecessary, just look at what happened in New Jersey," he said, noting dunes were not in place to protect the state's coastline. "Without a protective dune, we probably wouldn't have our Boardwalk or our oceanfront properties."

The municipal area of Bethany Beach includes about 1 mile of Atlantic beach coastline. This area constitutes one of the most significant natural resources and public areas managed by the town.

The maintenance of the width of the beach has been an increasing concern for town residents and officials, especially considering the increase in beach use the town has experienced due to significant growth

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Bethany Beach will be replenished again!

A project to restore the beach to pre-Sandy conditions and protect homes and businesses from future storms is now underway in Fenwick and will soon move north to Bethany.

Federal beach replenishment funds were secured earlier this year and crews from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers were put to work in Fenwick in July.

The \$19.3 million dollar project, funded through the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013, covers Fenwick, South Bethany, Bethany, Dewey, Rehoboth and Lewes.

Beach replenishment last occurred in Delaware in 2011. In Bethany and South Bethany, nearly 1.6 million cubic yards of sand were pumped on shore.

This time around, the Corps estimates 1.3 million cubic yards of sand will be pumped when all is said and done. Work is expected to reach completion by early fall.

In addition to building up the beaches, damaged crossovers will also be repaired and the dune will be built up to protect homes, businesses

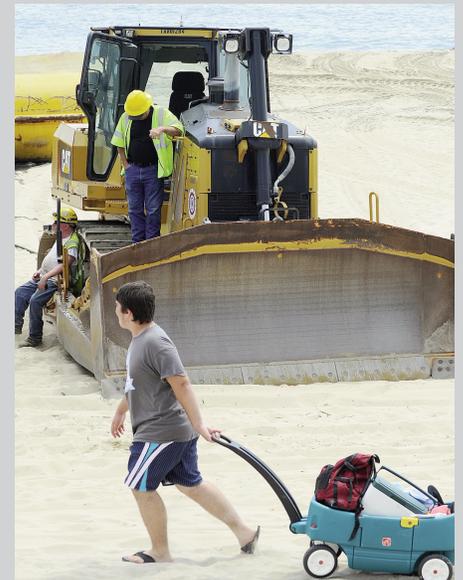


Photo courtesy of the Delmarva Media Group

and infrastructure.

"Because we are a low-lying state, extreme storms pose a real threat to us," Gov. Jack Markell said in a recent interview with The Dispatch. "My thanks goes to our Congressional delegation for securing the funding that's allowing us to restore damaged beaches and dunes and shore up our vulnerable areas so we can mitigate the potential impact of future storms."

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in development and recreation along Delaware's Atlantic coast.

Beach replenishment reinforces and widens the beach by relocating sand from just offshore onto the existing beach. A replenished beach not only provides additional recreational capacity, but also provides a buffer against storm and tidal surges.

The cost of beach replenishment projects has been subsidized by both the federal and state governments, allowing the community to receive the benefit of additional shore width without having to face a financial burden.

A 1988 report written for the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control estimates Delaware's beaches experience, on average, two to four feet of annual erosion. The beaches in Fenwick, South Bethany, Middlesex, Sea Colony and Bethany have been identified as erosion "hot spots," losing an average of four feet of beach per year.

Healy says he's thrilled funding has been secured for the 2013 project as wide beaches and high dunes are essential in any beach town.

"Economically, it's significant because we are the focal point for the region here," he said.

In the news

• **At Delaware's Recognition for Community Health Promotion in Dover on June 11, Bethany Beach was recognized for championing the health and well-being of its residents.**

• **This summer, the Town was named one of the "Top 10 Best Beaches For Families" by Family Vacation Critic. To read the article, visit http://bethanybeachnews.com/content/bethany_best_beach_families_best_boardwalk_food**

• **Bethany Beach appeared on Ameriprise Financial's list of "5 great beaches you've never heard of" in July. The Town earned the designation because of its abundance of wildlife, family activities and small-town charm.**

Show off your skills

Images sought for inaugural photo contest



Elizabeth Simons Gleason

Submissions should be emailed to lhughes@townofbethanybeach.com. Please be sure to include your name, phone number and address.

Questions should be directed to Events Director Laren Hughes at 302-539-8011, ext. 23.

Images may be shared on Facebook (Bethany Beach Events & Entertainment) and on Twitter (@bethanybeachfun).



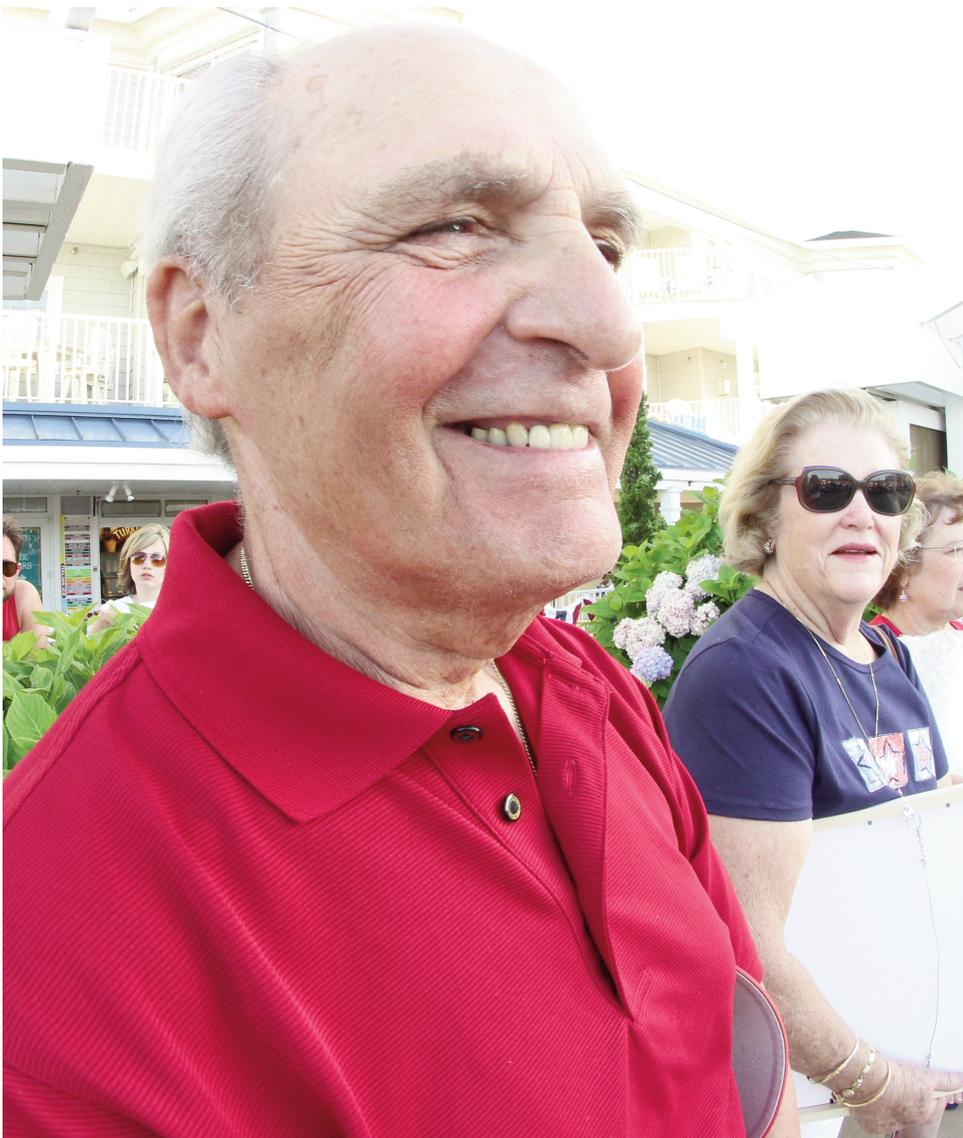
Haley Nystrom

Calling all photographers, amateur and professional, to take part in the inaugural Bethany Beach Photo Contest.

The Town will be accepting submissions through Jan. 1, 2014. Photos should be at least 8 inches wide and 300 DPI and evoke memories of Bethany Beach. Winners could be featured in next year's events calendar.



Jeff Martini



Rossi steps down as parade chairman

After 10 years at the helm, Philip Rossi has stepped down as chairman of the town's Fourth of July Parade. The announcement came shortly after the 30th annual event.

"I think it's about time for a change and time to bring in new blood," Rossi said. "I really enjoyed the chairmanship over the past 10 years. I always received support from the town, its staff and numerous volunteers. It would be remiss not to mention all those who supported the parade — the businesses, participants, etc."

Rossi's wife, Mary, who handled T-shirt sales for the past 10 years, has also resigned. Their duties will be absorbed by Events Director Laren Hughes.

Outgoing parade chairman thanks the town, volunteers

I am writing this letter on behalf of committee members to express a special thanks to all those who devoted their time to make the 30th annual Bethany Beach Fourth of July Parade a special event.

We would like to extend a special thanks to Bethany Beach officials, their staff and town employees; the Bethany Beach Police Department; the Bethany Beach Volunteer Fire Company and Ladies Auxiliary; the Bethany Beach Ambulance Corp.; the fire police; the Public Works Department; and we can't forget our emcee, Jennifer Carter.

Thanks also goes to St. Ann's Catholic Church and the Christian Church Conference Center for the use of their facilities and grounds; those who sold and purchased T-shirts; and Jennifer Carter, a very talented local artist, for her help in the design of the T-shirts and her donation of a painting for the grand-prize winner.

Without the support of all of these parade components in the months leading up to and after the parade, this event could not be a success. In addition, thanks to Lord's Landscaping, G&E Hocker and Complete Tree Care for providing trucks for our musical groups. Also, thanks to Walgreen's for donating

water for the parade and to Shore Foods for ice.

We also want to thank Greg Mavraganis for sponsoring the 5th annual Bethany Beach Firecracker 5K Run/3K Walk, and those who participated in the 25th annual horseshoe-throwing contest sponsored by Joe Lank.

A special thanks to the scores of bicyclists who used the bike kits and their talents to decorate their bikes; the community groups and businesses that entered floats; and, of course, to the walking organizations.

From everyone connected with this annual fun and successful show of small-town Americana, our sincere thanks.

Town park survey to be mailed

Bethany Beach is working to create a gateway park that will make the community even more attractive.

For decades, the 6-acre parcel at the intersection of routes 1 and 26 sat vacant and overgrown.

That began to change in 2004, when the Town purchased the property and decided it would be maintained as open space.

In 2008, the Town Council requested conceptual plans be developed. Given the economic conditions at the time, a number of capital projects were delayed, including the park.

The town manager revisited the issue last year when he approached the council about cleaning up the property, which had become a breeding ground for mosquitoes. The council agreed improvements were necessary and allowed Town staff to remove trees identified as a hazard by both the Town's arborist and its landscape architect.

Crews began spreading fill dirt in April and planted grass in late May. By early fall, the Public Works Department hopes to plant trees along the western boundary of the property.

The Town, in conjunction with the University of Delaware, is developing a citizen survey to determine the property's features. That should be mailed this summer. By fall, officials hope to host a public meeting to review survey results and discuss possible core elements of the new park.

The goal is to maintain open space and have a recreational area that can be enjoyed by all.

Council passes 2014 budget



Town Hall is pictured in early July. Bethany Beach scored well on its annual audit.

Auditors' yearly review wraps with glowing report

After several months of development and consideration, the Town Council passed a budget that includes \$7.7 million in total revenue, \$6.4 million in operating costs and \$1.9 million in capital projects and debt payment. The Town's budget year runs from April 1-March 31.

This year's budget includes three changes to fees and taxes: trash fees increased by 12 percent — which amounts to \$30 for most property owners — as the Town works to implement a number of new and expensive state mandates; the parking

pay station transaction fee increased from 25 to 50 cents to cover the actual expense to the Town of the transaction; and the ambulance fee, set by the Bethany Beach Volunteer Fire Company, increased by \$3 to cover the service's increased expenses.

The Town sets taxes and fees with emphasis on fairness and long-term fiscal stability. While many other cities and towns have struggled through the past few years on the brink of bankruptcy, Bethany Beach has continued to thrive.

Bethany Beach works to provide high-quality services for reasonable costs. The Town operates with a high degree of fiscal accountability, ensuring revenues fully cover the cost of operations and considering the cost of depreciation of capital assets during budget development. With this focus, the Town has been able to enhance and maintain a reasonable level of reserves,

Stay connected!

provide outstanding services, and have minimal debt.

The Town is aggressive in its pursuit of grant monies and Federal and State assistance, last year alone receiving almost \$4.5 million in assistance to enhance and maintain infrastructure. The Town continually reinvests in itself.

As the budget process wraps up, the Town immediately begins to prepare for its annual external audit, which occurs in the late spring.

On July 11, the Town's external auditor, TGM Group, presented its annual audit results and financial statements to the Audit Committee, and following the trend of the last decade, the Town received another exemplary audit!

"The Town is in good shape in every aspect," said Roy Geiser, an auditor with TGM.

The Town's fiscal health was repeatedly praised by the external auditors whose specialty is municipal governments. Bethany Beach is referred to as "model town" from an auditing and fiscal perspective.

The Town again received compliments on its policies and internal controls with auditors reporting Bethany Beach "does it right" by having an active Audit Committee, its own internal auditor and Town Council involvement.

Financial statements are available on the Town's website and at Town Hall. Property owners are encouraged to read the Management's Discussion and Analysis portion of the Town's audit to improve their understanding of Town finances.

We are working harder than ever to continually update Bethany Beach news and event information on our website. Please visit us and stay tuned for our new-and-improved site that should be up and running in the coming months. For up-to-the-minute information about Bethany Beach entertainment and

special events, like us on Facebook, www.facebook.com/visitbethanybeach, and follow @bethanybeachfun on Twitter. Be sure to check out our new Media Center, filled with informative videos, and find your family and friends in our Photo Gallery.



FROM THE MAYOR'S OFFICE

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Councilman Joe Healy are up for election. Four other Town residents, Joe Bellistri, Carol Brigleb, Jane North, Chuck Peterson and Robert Steiner have filed to run in this September's election, hoping to fill Carol Olmstead's seat and challenging incumbents Dorfman and Healy. By the way, are you aware our council members work many, many hours each week as volunteers? That's right — without compensation.

I cannot urge you strongly enough to be involved with the Town's electoral process. Request an absentee ballot from the Town if you will not be able to vote in person at Town Hall on Sept. 7. Follow our great weekly papers, The Coastal Point (www.coastalpoint.com)

and The Delaware Wave (www.delmarvanow.com/delawarewave), as they cover the election. If you are unable to attend the Candidate's Night Forum hosted by the editorial staff of The Coastal Point at 8 p.m., Aug. 23, we will be broadcasting it live on the Internet. You can listen by visiting www.townofbethanybeach.com. If you are unable to listen live, a recording will be available online after the forum for you to listen to anytime you like.

Bethany Beach is a great place to live or vacation. It is that way because its citizens are involved and care about their community. Vote on Sept. 7, and if you cannot get to Town Hall on Sept. 7 to vote in person, mail in the affidavit the Town has already sent you, get that absentee ballot and mail it in! Be involved in Bethany Beach.

Sign up for new-and-improved email alerts

Notify Me offers videos, photos, storm updates and more

Over the last several years, Town government has worked with available resources to more effectively communicate and engage with our citizens.

To that end, a number of years ago the Town asked residents to sign up to receive emails from the Town. Many initially signed up to receive our emails, but once realizing the vast majority of the emails were notices of meeting, agendas and official Town notices, dropped the service.

We will continue to send those official notices to those interested, but we're going to add another email option for citizens to receive Bethany Beach News and Information.

If you sign up to receive news and information from Bethany Beach, you will receive information about events and entertainment, reports on the progress of various Town projects with video footage and photos, up-to-the-minute news of storms and storm damage and other information and news we feel would be of

Sign up!

To sign up for this news and information service, visit the town's website, www.townofbethanybeach.com, click on the "E-News Sign-Up" link on the homepage and follow the directions.

interest to you as citizens of our community.

To sign up for this news and information service, visit www.townofbethanybeach.com and click on the "E-News Sign-Up" link on the homepage and follow the directions.

If you wish to receive both Official Notices and News and Information you may do so, but please remember official notices are just that, notices of meetings and agendas for those meetings and no more.

Please try this new email service as we work to make sure you are better informed and more connected to Bethany Beach.



Town website



Event calendar



Trolley schedule



FAQs

**Town of Bethany Beach
P.O. Box 109
Bethany Beach, DE 19930**