



REHOBOTH BEACH HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION

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The Rehoboth Beach Homeowner's Association (RBHA) newsletter is an informational and educational tool published three times a year for its members and members of the community including City Officials.

We welcome your comments and suggestions.

Editors - Sharon Sherwood
& Susan Gay

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RBHA is a 501c(3) tax exempt organization. Membership and donations to RBHA are tax deductible in accordance with applicable IRS regulations.



DNREC announced February 14 that it will assume day-to-day management of Deauville Beach for the 2024 Season. For more information visit the Delaware State Parks website or call 302-645-8983.

Letter from the President

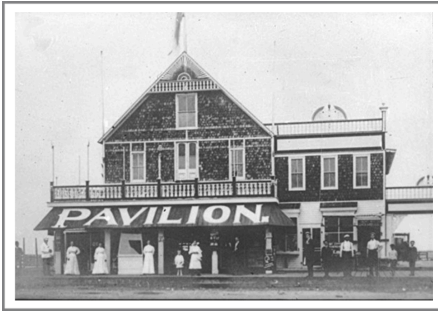
We're well into 2024, and believe me, "This Joint is Jumping" A great song by Fats Waller and a title that is truly applicable to Rehoboth Beach.

It also applies to the Rehoboth Beach Homeowners' Association. We have a great year ahead of us and started things off with the RBHA Spring Meeting on April 20th.

Members heard from Rehoboth Beach Director of Planning and Community Development Mary Ellen Gray, who addressed some of the staff changes in the departments under her management, and covered many of the steps the City is taking to better enforce our ordinances. The enforcement discussion was directly in response to the concerns voiced by the RBHA about the way the rules and regulations are enforced, and her presentation showed progress in many areas.

Mayor Stan Mills presented an update, including the status of construction of the new Beach Patrol Building, the hiring

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**“Horn’s Pavilion”
Rehoboth Beach History
Lecture**

**Thursday, May 9th
from 7:15 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.**

Positioned over the beach at the end of Rehoboth Avenue from just 1899 to 1914, Horn’s Pavilion was the most photographed building in Rehoboth’s history. It was described in a 1905 brochure as, “The Store that Made Rehoboth Famous”. Rehoboth is fortunate to have descendants of the founder, James Solomon Horn, still living today!! Come to the lecture to hear the stores.

**Call Paul Lovett at
302-893-9391 or email
paul@pdlovett.com to reserve
your spot. \$25 donation
requested.**

**Location: Sussex Room,
Boardwalk Plaza**

All proceeds support the
"Railroad Era Rehoboth Avenue"
diorama."

Enjoy dinner in the beautiful
Victoria's Restaurant (not
included in lecture fee)

Call Victoria's at 302-227-0615
to make a 5:00 to 5:30 dinner
reservation.

**The Railroad Era Rehoboth
Avenue Diorama is now on
display in the atrium of
City Hall.**

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of the City Manager Taylour Tedder, developments in the change of management of Deauville Beach to the State of Delaware, and other topics. Members had the opportunity to raise questions to both speakers, and many individual questions were answered or noted for future responses from the City.

Thanks to your feedback we were able to pass our revised Bylaws with one proposed amendment. We appreciated your feedback throughout this process. The final document will be published on the website in May.

Our mission is “to promote the common good and general welfare of the homeowners and residents of the City of Rehoboth Beach”. We can only do that with your help and feedback. So, these are a few of the events we hope to see you at in the coming months.

The annual Candidates’ Forum is scheduled for Saturday, July 20th at 10 AM to 12 Noon at the RB Fire Department. This is your opportunity to meet the candidates and ask questions!

Our annual Picnic in Grove Park will be Sunday, September 22 from 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM. The sun usually shines for this event!

Our Fall Meeting will be at the the RB Volunteer Fire Company on Saturday, October 19 from 10 AM - 12 Noon. We always have quest speakers and provide an opportunity for you to ask questions.

Finally, an event that we look forward to each year. This is the RB City Employee Appreciation Breakfast at the RB convention Center, Tuesday, November 19 at 8 AM. It’s our opportunity to recognize all the City Employees and thank them on behalf of our membership for all that they do to make Rehoboth our home.

In addition to marking your calendars for the above events, watch your emails for all of the electronic communications we’ll be putting out. You should be receiving notifications via Constant Contact. Also, see our posts on Facebook and Instagram.

Enjoy and see you soon,

Pamela Baker

President, RBHA



Meet the new City Manager



Taylour Tedder

Taylour Tedder brings credentials, a decade of community experience to new role as Rehoboth Beach

On April 8, 2024 the City of Rehoboth Beach announced the hiring of a new City Manager. This is the city's announcement.

After a comprehensive, six-month nationwide search, Rehoboth Beach Commissioners announced today that Boulder City (Nevada) City Manager Taylour Tedder will be the coastal community's new city manager. Tedder brings impressive credentials and more than a decade of local government management experience to his new role. Tedder's tentative start date in Rehoboth Beach is May 15.

Tedder has been responsible for day-to-day management of Boulder City, a community of 15,000 located about 26 miles southeast of Las Vegas and home to the Hoover Dam, since 2021. In Boulder City, he oversees a staff of 212 full-time and another 135 part-time city employees and a total budget of \$198 million. His Boulder City achievements include enhancing community engagement, undertaking strategic planning initiatives, realizing accreditation of the fire department from the Commission on Fire Accreditation International, receiving the Triple Crown Award from the Government Finance Officers Association, completing major infrastructure projects with federal and state grant funding, and improving employee relations and recognition.

Tedder is an ICMA (International City/County Management Association) Credentialed Manager and a Certified Economic Developer through the International Economic Development Council. He has a Master of Public Administration degree from Wichita State University and a bachelor's degree in economics from Emporia State University.

"Taylour is extremely qualified," says Mayor Stan Mills. "His experience and skills align well with the challenges and opportunities that exist in Rehoboth Beach. He is fiscally savvy, experienced in the day-to-day operations of a destination community, enthusiastic and energetic, and a fantastic communicator. We look forward to welcoming Taylour to Rehoboth Beach and to working with him well into the future to further Rehoboth Beach's reputation as the Nation's Summer Capital and as one of the best places in Delaware to call 'home.'"

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City Manager Announcement

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Before taking his current position in Boulder City, Tedder was assistant city manager in Leavenworth, Kansas for more than five years. He previously worked for the City of Derby, Kansas. Since 2019, he has been an adjunct professor, teaching an online economic development class for Wichita State University's Master of Public Administration program.

A Kansas City area native, Tedder says he is "incredibly grateful" for his new professional role and looking forward to rolling up his sleeves and providing much value as city manager. He expects to do a lot of looking and listening during his first several weeks on the job.

"I love meeting with people," he says, "and talking with people. Talking with community members will help me learn the culture and understand why people like working, living in, and visiting Rehoboth Beach. I'll focus on what matters to our elected officials, community members, and business owners. With my training and experience, I'll bring a fresh outlook to how the city operates, and we'll explore implementing innovative strategies and best practices to move the city forward, create efficiencies, and optimize the budget in meaningful ways."

When he's not working, Tedder enjoys home improvement projects, hiking, and being out on the water. He also has an affinity for cars. Tedder and his wife, Amber, along with their rescue cats, are "ecstatic" (OK, maybe the cats aren't ecstatic yet) to become part of a community that is a premier destination resort and one of Delaware's best places to live.



Traffic & Transportation Study

Commissioners Presentation
April 8, 2024



The Rossi Group presented its preliminary final Traffic & Transportation Study report and recommendations to commissioners at the April 8 workshop meeting. The presentation is available under Documents on the Traffic & Transportation Study page at [Reach Out Rehoboth](#).



Q & A with Keith W. Banks, Chief of Police

By Mary Good

I recently had a chance to interview Rehoboth's longstanding Chief of Police, Keith Banks. The following questions and responses represent the Chief's remarks, edited only for readability.

Reflecting back on 2023, what accomplishments are you most proud of?

I am most proud of the effort and dedication of the members of our agency. Our agency when fully staffed has nineteen full-time police officers, twelve dispatchers, and twenty-six seasonals. Last year we faced a significant staffing shortage with as few as sixteen officers, six dispatchers, and fifteen seasonals. Regardless of the staffing challenges, due to the efforts of our members, public safety remained a priority and services never declined. I am pleased to say that since the end of 2023 we have hired five new dispatchers and three new police officers. We are currently running an ongoing hiring process for full-time police officers, dispatchers, and seasonal police officers. In 2024, the city has funded the hiring of two additional officers and one dispatcher bringing staffing to twenty-one full-time officers and thirteen dispatchers.

As we approach the upcoming summer season, what are your key priorities for the department?

Our priority will remain the same and it is best summed up by our mission statement;

Without compromise for crime and through the relentless pursuit of criminals, we will;

SAFEGUARD the lives and property of the people we serve,

REDUCE the incidence and fear of crime, and

ENHANCE public safety while working with our diverse community to improve their quality of life.

This will not change.

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Interview with Chief Banks

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With the continued growth in our summer population and increasing traffic to our city, how are we tracking in terms of the safety and security for residents, visitors and property relative to prior years? What metrics do you use to measure these trends?

Simply stated our goal has always been and always will be a metric of zero. We do not want to see ANYONE victimized by crime within the city of Rehoboth Beach. We realize our goal is a very lofty one and with that said there are many different metrics used for measuring crime trends. It often depends on what trends are being analyzed. The broadest of metrics is the use of FBI crime data collected directly from Delaware's automated crime reporting system (LEISS) via the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). While it is a very accurate data set, I would caution against using a narrow view when examining FBI crime data as the data does not account for factors such as the aforementioned staffing shortages. An agency with three less officers than the previous year will inevitably reflect a decline in criminal and traffic enforcement. Unfortunately, in terms of crime, there was an increase in incidents of part one crimes compared to previous years. For anyone interested in the numbers, the data is available on our website. (www.rehobothpd.org) With the growth and development of Sussex County and the rate of new home construction, the city recognizes the need for additional officers to protect our community and recently the commissioners approved an increase in police staffing for the upcoming budget year.

The Seawitch Festival, July 4th and other weekend-long events are incredibly busy times in town. How do these large scale weekend-long events impact security demands and how is your team responding to these challenges?

Events are a tremendous challenge that require an extensive amount of planning and resources. Simply stated we are able to meet the challenge by putting in the hours of dedication needed. Regardless of staffing and/or whatever obstacle we are facing on an ever changing basis, we have no choice but to meet the mark, otherwise the safety of our citizens and visitors alike is at risk. In addition to this effort and dedication, we have developed tremendous relationships with our public safety partners throughout the state. These partners include many police, fire, and EMS agencies, as well as DelDOT, DEMA and the Sussex County Emergency Operations Center. Through these partnerships we are able to deploy many specialized resources throughout our events, which are essential to ensure public safety. The demand the police department faces as a result of events is reflected in the following information:

In 2023, the Rehoboth Beach Police Department managed approximately 51 special events, those funded by a third party source, resulting in officers needing to staff 141 shifts ranging from 3 to 14 hours. This does not include the annual Fireworks event, the Christmas Tree Lighting, or the Christmas Parade as these events are not considered "special" events by definition due to the fact they are funded by the city. The Fireworks event is generally staffed by 50-60 law enforcement officers from the entire state. The Christmas Parade is staffed by just over half that number.

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City Issues

Mayor and Commissioners

Mayor and Commissioner topics that we have been actively following over the months on behalf of our members include the ongoing review of Code provisions regarding basements, and the take-over of the management of Deauville Beach by DNREC (Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control).

Code Provisions Regarding Basements: There have been no discussions on this topic during March or April.

Deauville Beach. This situation will be addressed in detail in a separate section of this newsletter edition.

Planning Commission

Planning Commission topics that we have been following include plans for 413, 415, and 417 Rehoboth Avenue and multiple hotel proposals.

413, 415, and 417 Rehoboth Avenue: The proposals for these three adjoining properties have been advanced by the Planning Commission to the Public Hearing phase of Site Plan Review. It is anticipated that this Public Hearing will be scheduled for May 10, 2024.

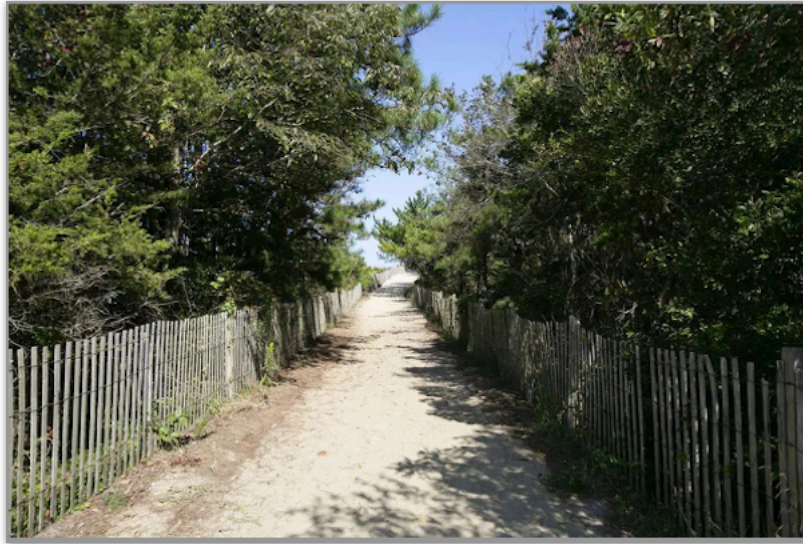
The Belhaven Hotel: Initial discussions of site plans for the proposed hotel continued before the Planning Commission on April 12, 2024. These initial discussions will continue prior to the scheduling of a Public Hearing for Final Site Plan Review. As has been reported extensively in the Cape Gazette, there have been significant modifications to the proposal since the last discussion with the Planning Commission including a reduction of underground parking from two levels to one, and a reduction in the proposed total number of guest rooms.

330 Rehoboth Avenue. There are no updates as of our deadline regarding the court case surrounding the development of this property. The developer had filed suit against the City concerning the denial of the rezoning of a portion of the parcel from R-1 Residential to C-3 Commercial.

Atlantic Crowne (Baltimore Avenue, ocean block). There are no updates on this hotel proposal as of our deadline.

One Rehoboth Avenue (former Dolles' location). There are no updates on this hotel proposal as of our deadline.

Deauville Beach



The RBHA Board of Directors had been closely following the public discussions of the Mayor and Commissioners regarding the ongoing negotiations between the City and DNREC (Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control). For that reason, we were taken aback by the sudden announcement that negotiations had ceased and DNREC was taking management of Deauville Beach and its amenities away from the City. The RBHA Board worked cooperatively with other Rehoboth community advocates to express our concerns on behalf of our members and to argue for a re-opening of negotiations, or at the least, the implementation of plans and procedures to mitigate the certain negative consequences of DNREC's unilateral actions.

The RBHA Board of Directors took a public position that “the City and DNREC should return to the negotiations table to find appropriate solutions, or, at the very least, assure that all current City laws and regulations will be enforced”, and provided this position statement to Rehoboth City Officials and DNREC representatives on February 28th. This was shared with membership through a Constant Contact email on March 3rd. Importantly, there was no response from DNREC for nearly a month following the receipt of our emailed letter of concerns.

The RBHA Board of Directors wrote a letter of concern to our state-level public officials including Senator Russ Huxtable and Representative Peter C. Schwartzkopf on March 24th. We regret to report that no response was received from either official or their designee. A copy of the letter is available on the RBHA website and was made available to our members through our Constant Contact email outreach.

A Virtual Meeting was hosted by DNREC on March 27th and was attended by representatives from the RBHA Board of Directors. The meeting announcement and access links were shared with members through Constant Contact. It is important to note that there was no opportunity made available

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Interview with Chief Banks

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In addition to special events in 2023, the Rehoboth Beach Police Department staffed 37 overtime shifts funded via grant to man the Rehoboth Beach Bandstand Concert Series.

In addition to special events in 2023, the Rehoboth Beach Police Department staffed 31 overtime shifts funded via the Office of Highway Safety to support various public safety related initiatives such as DUI, speed, and seatbelt enforcement, as well as pedestrian safety.

This information alone justifies my opening statement that I am most proud of the effort and dedication of the members of our agency that both Police and Communications displayed throughout 2023.

How has President Biden's presence impacted your role and the role of our police officers?

Presidential visits are another daunting task that present a tremendous challenge requiring an extensive amount of planning and resources. With as little as sixteen full-time officers the men and women of our agency met the demands of presidential protection in the same manner as other agencies staffed with hundreds of officers. Consider the following as an illustration of our agency's efforts.

In 2023 the President made 10 visits to Rehoboth Beach. These visits, to include a week long vacation, resulted in 103 OT shifts, ranging from 3 to 15 hours, which were all filled by RBPD officers. This resulted in an expenditure of approximately \$45,548.91 in overtime funding, for which the city will be reimbursed by FEMA.

We read in national news about some emerging trends within city police forces, namely the aging of the force, folks taking early retirements, and challenges in recruiting new officers to the profession. How have these trends impacted our Rehoboth Police department, if at all? What strategies are you deploying to address any concerns?

Retirements, a lack of interest in the law enforcement profession, and extremely restrictive legislation have gravely affected police recruiting not only in the State of Delaware, but nationwide. We can look to our neighbors in Ocean City who recently shutdown their seasonal police officer program as a result of these very issues. Full-time officers are fleeing the state of Maryland as a result of legislation that has stripped officers of their Bills of Rights. The very rights that protect them against unsubstantiated claims and termination. Similar legislation has been discussed in this state. The solution, like many challenges law enforcement has faced throughout history, is we continue to grind. We visit and send literature to colleges in surrounding states. We also currently run an internship program through which young students from the Cape Henlopen school district are exposed to the fascinating aspects of the law enforcement profession and more specifically the Rehoboth Beach Police Department. Lastly, our agency staffs the Rehoboth Beach Elementary School with a School Resource Officer at no cost to the district. This provides young students the opportunity to routinely interact with a police officer on a daily basis

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Interview with Chief Banks

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dispelling many common stigmas and creating an interest at an early age in the law enforcement profession.

At the 2022 Annual RBHA meeting you spoke about the increased cost of housing in the area and the inability for summer officers to find affordable rental options. Is this still a concern and if so, what possible solutions are being worked on to address this issue?

Absolutely, the cost of housing remains a critical issue. Many of our seasonal officers work the entire summer to simply gain law enforcement experience and the wages they earn are not even enough to cover the cost of their rent. In combination with the decline of interest in law enforcement previously highlighted, the resulting recruitment challenge is very evident. Solutions are difficult as all of them require funding. One example of the efforts being made is that the city currently provides a housing allowance to seasonal officers who meet certain length of employment requirements. I have continued to warn that without seasonal housing being provided by the city this program will be shut down within the next few years for lack of applicants. We cannot afford for this to occur.

Code enforcement issues have been a priority for RBHA over the last couple of years. How is your department working with the city to address issues like noise complaints, speeding on neighborhood streets, bike safety, animal issues, beach canopies and open container/smoking issues?

The city has recently hired two new code enforcement officers. Over the past couple months the police department has worked to develop working relationships with these employees in order to promote a cohesive and unified approach to many of the issues mentioned. Both code enforcement officers are scheduled to attend noise related training in preparation for the 2024 summer season.

What safety and security advice do you have for homeowners as we approach the upcoming summer season?

Our goal is that no one becomes a victim of criminal activity and only with the partnership of our community is this possibility through prevention. Easy preventative measures are acts such as locking the doors of your home and vehicles, using alarms if your property is equipped, and using light as a deterrent. One of the best and most affordable crime deterrents is a light routinely programmed to come on via a timer. Don't leave expensive items in plain view inside your vehicle. And lastly, if you purchase an expensive item, such as a brand new 80" flat screen TV, take the box to the recycle center. Don't place it out at the curb next to your trash can so that everyone passing by knows what treasure lies inside your home.

What can we do to further support you and your team as you fulfill your mission for the city?

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Interview with Chief

(Continued from pg. 10)

Honestly, we simply ask that you continue to promote a partnership with our agency through communication such as this. Simply knowing one another breaks down biases and overcomes hurdles that prevent an effective working relationship. As a simple example, if you have a point of contact that is able to reach all your homeowners via email or text, this would be a tremendous resource for our agency. Surveillance cameras are common today. When we are faced with a criminal investigation in a residential area, it would be beneficial to have a resource through whom we could request any video of an area that a resident might possess. Such video might capture a suspect or suspect vehicle leaving the area. The development of relationships like the one I just described prevents and solves crime.

We ask that when you call 9-1-1 be prepared to answer a number of questions starting with your address, phone number, and name. It can be a lot of questions but we ask them for our officers' safety and yours. And know, even though you are answering questions help is still being sent without delay. Our Communication Specialists are some of the best in Delaware and utilize ProQA a call taking software that allows them to get as much information for the officers, EMTs, and firefighters being dispatched to help.

In response to the Chief's request to provide a liaison from RBHA to the department, Mary Good will be the board's liaison to Chief Banks going forward. We are hopeful this arrangement will lead to proactive two way communication between the Chief and our membership.



New "Hands-Free" Ordinance

Just in time for the busy summer season, the Board of Commissioners unanimously passed a new ordinance banning the use of hand-held electronic devices while driving. There is already a law in state code against texting and driving and our local police have been able to issue citations previously. However, because we did not have a local law, our police officers had to go to Georgetown for any citations that were challenged in court. Going forward, any challenges can be heard in our own municipal court, which will be more efficient for our police department.

The fine for texting while driving is \$100 for the first offense, and \$200 - \$300 for each subsequent offense. The ordinance went into effect immediately upon its adoption at the April 19, 2024 Board of Commissioners meeting.



Deauville Beach

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by DNREC for members of the audience to question DNREC’s actions. Rather, this open meeting was limited to public comments regarding the implementation of the decision that DNREC had already made. Comments and concerns stated by our board members, as well as members of the public included the topics of public safety, maintenance of a clean and trash-free beach and park area, traffic and parking access, trash overflow at the park entrance, trash left in our neighborhoods by park visitors, illegal parking by park visitors, and the need for a communication and response plan for public safety and law enforcement events.

Many of us have been in positions of responsibility that required us to have a Plan A, a Plan B, and a Plan C because we all know that life will provide you with a surprise and failure to plan is no excuse. To observers it would appear that not only is there no Plan B or C, but there is also not yet a transparent and well-articulated Plan A. While communication from the City has been transparent through multiple discussions in public Mayor and Commissioner meetings, the same cannot be said for DNREC. It would seem that DNREC had predetermined that it would take over management of Deauville Beach and had presented the City not only with an increase in the cost of the lease, but additional provisions that would have added prohibitive expenses to what the City had already been absorbing for years including beach maintenance, lifeguard staffing, and public safety responsibilities to name a just a few. This is an unfortunate situation that is completely due to the decisions and actions taken by DNREC.



FY 2025 City Budget Approved

Tax Increases Ahead for Rehoboth Homeowners and Businesses

Facing increased costs for labor, construction and operations of the city, the Rehoboth Beach Mayor and Commissioners approved a \$38.7M budget for fiscal year 2025 during a meeting on March 15th. The approved budget is an 8% increase over the current fiscal year budget of \$35.7 million.

Mayor Stan Mills stated, “Rehoboth Beach is facing the same challenges every municipality - and every household - is facing: the rising costs of everything.”

These cost increases resulted in a significant potential budget deficit. In order to balance the budget, commissioners voted in favor of several measures that will spread the impact on all stakeholders: residents, businesses, and visitors, including:

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Tax Increases Ahead for Rehoboth Homeowners and Businesses

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- a 29% property tax increase, from 0.06 per \$100 to 0.075 per \$100 assessed value. For example, annual taxes on a \$1 million home will rise \$150 per year, from \$600 to \$750 per year, significantly below most local municipalities
- a 28% increase in wastewater meter fees from \$14.70 per 1000 gallons to \$18.81 per 1000 gallons, to fund ongoing improvements at the city’s wastewater treatment facility
- a 20% increase in business license fees
- an increase in hourly meter parking fees during the season from \$3.00 to \$4.00 per hour
- an increase of 30% in parking permit fees
- an increase in the rental tax rate from 6% to 7%

The FY 2025 budget will fund investments in infrastructure and appropriate staff resourcing to provide for the health, safety and enjoyment of city residents and visitors. Included in the budget are:

infrastructure investments, with approximately \$10 million appropriated for capital improvements, including the badly-needed new Beach Patrol Building which will include new upgraded and accessible public bathrooms. The existing building was very substandard, deteriorating and did not accommodate 21st Century technology.

- properly resourced city staff:
 - Salary raises in order to remain competitive with other local municipalities and a 27% increase in health insurance costs, and
 - several new positions to provide for better safety for residents and visitors, including a new deputy police chief position, two new entry-level patrol officers, and an additional dispatcher position in the 911 communications center.

Mayor Mills commented, “We have cut costs where we could and have worked hard to spread the impact of tax increases and fees fairly among our residents, businesses and visitors. These increases are difficult, but necessary, in order to continue to provide the first-class services our residents depend on.”



Don't forget to renew your membership for 2024. Membership Forms were mailed in January. If you misplaced your form, you can renew on our website by clicking Membership and Pay.

Update



By Howard Menaker

The City of Rehoboth Beach and the Rehoboth Beach Library have worked for several months to find agreement on a deed restriction providing that the Library continue to operate a library on the current location on Rehoboth Avenue. Currently, such a restriction is in force with regard to the westernmost lot of the three on which the library building is located. Both the City and Library had considered releasing that restriction, but imposing it on the other two lots.

However, at the meeting of the Mayor and Commissioners on April 19, the Library stated that they were no longer seeking this change. They stated, "Over the past few months, through discussions with the City, the draft agreement proposed by the City has changed dramatically. At this point, the Library Board has determined that it is in the best interests of the Library and our Rehoboth Beach constituents to withdraw our request before the Board of Commissioners of the City of Rehoboth Beach."

Thanking the Mayor and Commissioners for their consideration of the library's request to swap the deed restrictions, they stated that they will continue working with their architect to look for alternative design options for the current downtown location. While over the past year or so there had been some unsubstantiated rumors that the Library was planning to move out of the city, the Library reiterated, "We are committed to continuing to work with the City to serve our community with an even better downtown Library, and are excited to move forward in that process!"

The Rehoboth Beach Homeowners is pleased to see this commitment, and will continue to monitor the progress of the Library's plans and will keep our members informed of the plans as soon as possible.

FREE SPRING BULK PICKUP

Southside: April 29-May 3
Northside: May 6-10

Please note that southside bulk pickup includes Schoolvue and Scarborough Avenue Ext. Visit the Trash & Recycling page on the city's website for a list of items that are acceptable as well as a list of those that are not.

It's not too early to submit your Rehoboth Reflections entries

Sunrises are the #1 subject of Rehoboth Reflection entries. We love sunrise photos, too, but know that there are LOTS of other great photo subjects in Rehoboth Beach: a winter storm, spring flowers, eclipse watching, our parks, etc. We look forward to seeing your Rehoboth Beach photos; selected photos will be featured in the city's 2025 calendar. The submission deadline is September 6, but if you have great winter/spring photos, submit them now. You may submit up to three photos via the Rehoboth Reflections page on the city website.



REGISTERING TO VOTE IN THE CITY of REHOBOTH

DID YOU KNOW YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE A DELAWARE RESIDENT TO VOTE IN THE CITY OF REHOBOTH BEACH MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS?

We have a great privilege here in Rehoboth Beach. If you are a resident OR a Non-resident of the City of Rehoboth Beach City AND a property owner 18 years of age or older, you may vote in Rehoboth Beach City elections. However, you must be registered to vote. Registration for DE state or federal elections does not qualify you to vote in the City of Rehoboth Beach municipal elections.

Registration merely requires the property owner(s) to visit City Hall on Rehoboth Avenue with a driver's license or other identification and to fill out a simple form. Once registered, voters can vote in-person or by absentee ballot in City elections.

If your property is titled in the name of a Revocable Trust you must be BOTH the GRANTOR and the GRANTEE of the Trust. You will be asked to provide a copy of the First and Last pages of the Trust when you register to vote. If your property is titled in the name of an Irrevocable Trust or an LLC you are not eligible to register to vote.

Voters who miss two consecutive annual elections are placed on an inactive list. These voters are notified by postcard and information about their voting status is requested.

Please note: We have not had elections for the past two years because we have had two uncontested elections, thus the last two years would NOT count towards the "two consecutive missed elections."

Voters who have not yet registered in the City of Rehoboth Beach must register IN-PERSON at City Call, located at 229 Rehoboth Avenue.

The annual elections are held in August at the Rehoboth Beach Convention Center located at 229 Rehoboth Avenue.

If you have any additional questions about registering to vote you can contact City Hall at 302-227-6181 and speak to Election Staff Official Donna Moore and/or visit the City website at cityofrehoboth.com.

Regional Eruption of Crape Myrtle Bark Scale (CMBS) Affecting Rehoboth

Pai Jih Hung – meaning “100 days of red” – is the Chinese name for the Crape Myrtle, a common ornamental tree in our landscapes. But some Rehoboth Beach residents may think “365 days of black” when they see their Crape Myrtles charred as if they caught fire. This article aims to bring awareness to Rehoboth Beach property owners of a national ecological disturbance causing such symptoms.

Don't let your Crape Myrtles go

from this...



to this...



What is CMBS

CMBS is a small sap-sucking insect with several life stages (egg, nymph, pupa, and adult) (LSU AgCenter). Most stages are small enough to go unnoticed with the naked eye. Adult females develop a white-grayish protective coating.

What's the Damage?

The insects have piercing mouthparts with which they penetrate the tree's bark and feed on the sap. Scale insects digest the sap and then excrete a sticky, sugary solution: **honeydew**. The presence of honeydew is another good indicator of a scale infestation. It can attract wasps, yellow jackets and other flying insects. The effects we see are primarily crown dieback, little or no growth, and loss of blooms. **sooty mold** accumulates on untreated trees with CMBS.

Sooty Mold

Sooty mold is the black fungus that covers bark and leaves thereby giving the tree a charred look. Brian Kunkle of UD Cooperative Extension in Sussex County points out that sooty mold “is not a disease. It does not harm the health of trees or shrubs.” While it may be an unsightly symptom for many, it is just that – a symptom (and indicator) of a much larger problem. If sooty mold is seen on a car, fence, or patio – which we often see - it is surviving on the excretions of the scale insects feeding on your trees above.

(Continued on pg. 17)

Regional Eruption of Crape Myrtle Bark Scale (CMBS) Affecting Rehoboth

(Continued from pg. 16)

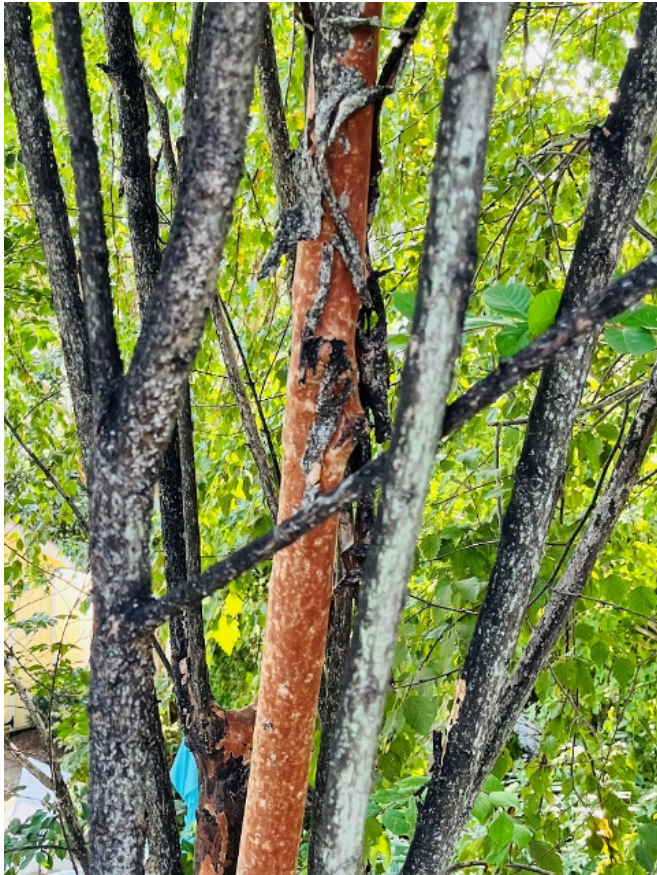


Photo: REHOBOTH BEACH - After treatment, dead CMBS and Sooty Mold Begin to fall off as the tree sheds its bark.

Mr. Kunkle agrees that the best option for sooty mold removal is to allow it to “weather off” after gaining control of the insect population. Some local residents have opted to use a diluted Dawn dish detergent solution with a scrub brush and plenty of rinsing. Others have power-washed the trunks. If the scale is not controlled, the sooty mold will return and persist.

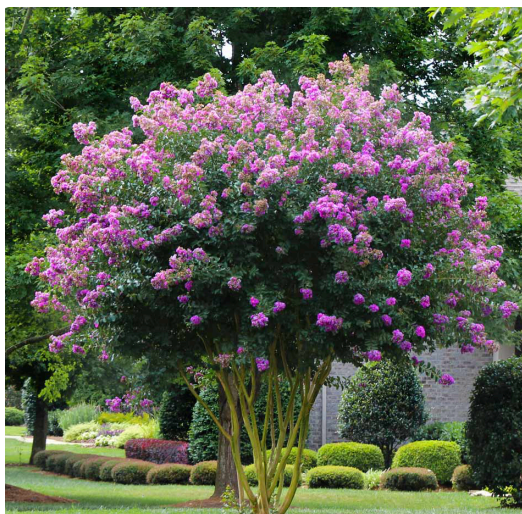
Moving Forward: Management

CMBS is certainly going to be a member of our local ecology for years to come. The Universities of Maryland and Delaware are involved in extensive research and experimenting with management options that are ecologically sound. A local certified arborist who works closely with extension agents is best equipped to provide the necessary guidance, prevention, and treatment.

If you decide to trim your tree, **Do Not** place diseased branches with your other yard waste as this waste is ground up into mulch and will spread the disease. Please place with your household trash to ensure the disease does not spread more widely.

You can read more about crape myrtle bark disease and how to prevent and treat it by going to the following link https://mcusercontent.com/910cbo84b3564f21bd4b19d9/files/f90190e-3c8a-1bea-5910-39d12a378b41/Crape_Myrtle_Bark_Scale_sussex_county.pdf

Article written by Tyler Hammond, Certified Arborist at Cypress Tree Care, ISA Certified Arborist® CERT ID:PD-3068A



Healthy Tree
and blossoms.



RBHA Spring Meeting - Thank you to our Guest Speakers, Mayor Stan Mills and Director of Planning & Community Development, Mary Ellen Gray



**Rehoboth Beach
Homeowners' Association
P.O. Box 41
Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971
RBhome.org**

April 28, 2024



REHOBOTH BEACH
HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION

2024 Board Meetings

All board meetings are open to the public. The meetings are held in the Rehoboth Beach Main Street office conference room, at Grove Park, but are also available via Zoom, if requested at least one week in advance.

Saturday, January 13 at 9 a.m.

Saturday, February 10 at 9 a.m.

Saturday, March 09 at 9 a.m.

Saturday, April 13 at 9 a.m.

Saturday, May 11 at 9 a.m.

Saturday, June 08 at 9 a.m. (via Zoom)

Saturday, July 13 at 9 a.m. (via Zoom)

Saturday, August 10 at 9 a.m. (via Zoom)

Saturday, September 14, at 9 a.m.

Saturday, October 05, at 9 a.m.

Saturday, November 09 at 9 a.m.

Saturday, December 14, at 9 a.m.

2024 RBHA Special Events

Spring Meeting.

Saturday, April 20 at 10 a.m.

Rehoboth Beach Volunteer Fire Company, Upstairs Mtg. Room - Elevator Access Available

Candidate Forum

Saturday, July 20 at 10 a.m.

Rehoboth Beach Volunteer Fire company, Upstairs Mtg. Room - Elevator Access Available

Annual Picnic in Grove Park

Sunday, September 22 at 11:30 a.m.

(Rain Date - Saturday, Oct. 19 at RB Volunteer Fire Company)

Annual Fall Meeting

Saturday, October 19 at 10 a.m.

Rehoboth Beach Volunteer Fire Company Upstairs Mtg. Room - Elevator Access Available

RB Employee Appreciation Breakfast

Tuesday, November 19 at 8 a.m.

RB Convention Center