

# Rehoboth Beach Homeowners' Association

Incorporated 1971

December 2019

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### President

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### President - Elect

Mark Saunders 717-880-8066

### Treasurer

Steve Curson 302-727-5700

### Secretary

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Bob Lawrence 301-675-8597

The RBHA newsletter is published three times a year as an informational and educational tool for its members. Contributors include RBHA members and members of the community including City officials.

We welcome your comments and suggestions.

Editors —

Charlie Browne and Mark Saunders

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RBHA

P.O. Box 41

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

## President's Message

RBHA's Annual Picnic at Grove Park was held on Sunday, September 15th. Each year the picnic gets bigger and better - so please plan on joining us next year on Sunday, September 20, 2020. I know it's a while off, but you will be glad you are there. The picnic starts at 11:30 a.m. to give football fans time to enjoy the picnic and still be home in time for their game. There are some great photos from this year's picnic in the newsletter.

On Saturday, September 14th, RBHA was once again the sponsor for Coastal Clean Up for the part of our beach adjacent to the boardwalk. We had the largest number of volunteers ever come and help including the wonderful ladies from the Village Improvement Association who have volunteered every year. . On October 23th another RBHA tradition took place - the Employee Appreciation Breakfast for our great city employees. There is a huge amount of work and time that goes into the planning of these events and I appreciated the hard work of our members and Board members who make all of these things happen.

The RBHA Annual Meeting was held at CAMP Rehoboth on Saturday, October 19th. Chief of Police Keith Banks assisted by Lt. Jamie Riddle, Corporal Bryson Ezell, and Officer Tammy Ketterman presented our fall program. There is a great article in the newsletter about the program and a link that will allow you to see on U-tube the video shown by Lt. Riddle to the audience. Also at the Annual Meeting members voted to change the office of vice president to president -elect. Mark Saunders is now RBHA president-elect and will be taking over the role of president after the 2020 annual meeting in October. I have served as your president for several years, and I thank you for that privilege. Mark and I will be working together closely on the next several months to make sure that RBHA has a great new leader.

In case you did not hear, the Matador Network, a travel website, picked the 25 coolest towns in the country, and Rehoboth was number five. So enjoy our cool town and enjoy our fall newsletter!

*Charlie Browne*

## Rehoboth Beach Coastal Cleanup September 14, 2019

This year Coastal Cleanup was on a beautiful fall morning. Over 80 volunteers - the largest group ever - arrived early and eager to clean our beaches. Volunteers on the south end of the beach got to weave in and out of volleyball players to gather debris. The largest group of volunteers in 2019 were from the University of Delaware. The next largest group was from the Village Improvement Association followed by Bank of America. Notable volunteers included Speaker of the House Pete Schwartzkopf and Rehoboth Beach Commissioner Susan Gay.

To show our appreciation to the volunteers, RBHA had Coastal Cleanup t-shirts printed and offered them to volunteers for \$5 (a price that was below cost). Many of the volunteers took home a t-shirt, and we have some left for next year.

New this year was the DNREC data app that allowed volunteers to enter what they found in the sand immediately without having to record it on a paper form. Many of our volunteers enjoyed this new tool while others preferred the traditional paper way. In addition, DNREC provided both trash and recycling bags allowing volunteers to sort trash and recyclables and a scale so that volunteers could weigh their bags when done.

As usual and in spite of our smoke-free beach, cigarette butts constituted the largest single item by number if not weight. However, the good news is that the number of cigarette butts picked up is down by over 90 percent from before the smoking ban. Nothing dangerous or unusual was found. However, Representative Pete Schwartzkopf was delighted by the frisbee he retrieved.

We would like to thank all of the volunteers for participating in this important annual event! A special thanks to the Village Improvement Association (VIA) who return year after year in large numbers to assist.



University of Delaware Volunteers for Coastal Clean Up 2019

Every volunteer makes a difference! As the *Ocean Conservancy, International Coastal Cleanup* states:

“Many birds, dolphins, seals, turtles, and fish eat things they shouldn’t—like bottle caps and toothbrushes. Few can regurgitate unhealthy items, resulting in a false sense of fullness that causes them to stop eating and slowly starve to death. Ingested trash can also cause choking, blockage of the digestive system, or toxic poisoning.

Sea turtles, of which six out of seven species are threatened or endangered, may mistake waterborne plastic bags and balloons for jellyfish (a favorite food) and die when the plastic chokes them or clogs their digestive systems. Seabirds, attracted to any small bits of trash, commonly consume plastic pellets, bottle caps, string, and cigarette butts.”

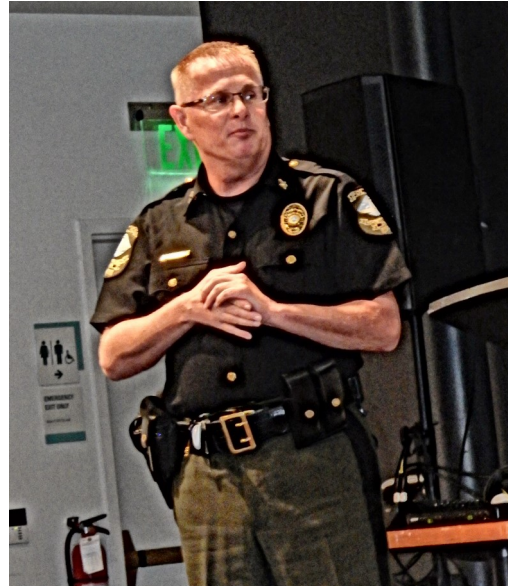
This annual clean-up is sponsored and organized by as a part of the annual International Coastal Cleanup. They supply the trash bags, gloves, and collection forms. The area the we covered was all of our beach, from one end of the Boardwalk to the other. Please mark your calendars to sign up for Coastal Cleanup 2020 on the DNREC website next August and meet us at the same place—gazebo on Wilmington Avenue and the Boardwalk in September!



## RBHA Annual Meeting - Saturday - October 19 - by Charlie Browne

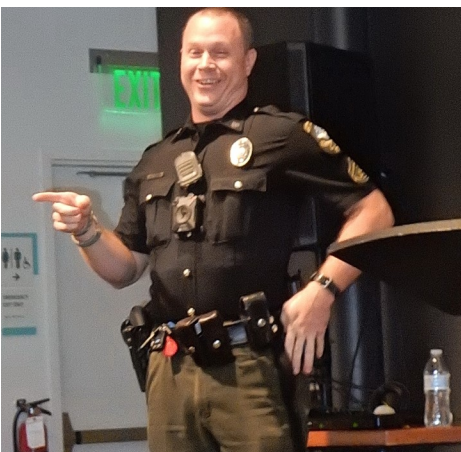
The RBHA Annual Meeting was held on Saturday, October 19, at the CAMP Rehoboth Community Center. Attendees included Mayor Paul Kuhns and several City Commissioners. The crowd came early to enjoy coffee, pastries, and each other's company and lingered quite a while afterwards for more of the same.

After the Treasurer's Report and the President's remarks, the members approved two amendments to the By-laws. One change was to change the office on vice president to president-elect. The second change was to change the term of officers from one year to two years. Next Commissioner Susan Gay gave an update on the Commemorative Tree Fund. The program was presented by Police Chief Keith Banks and his staff.

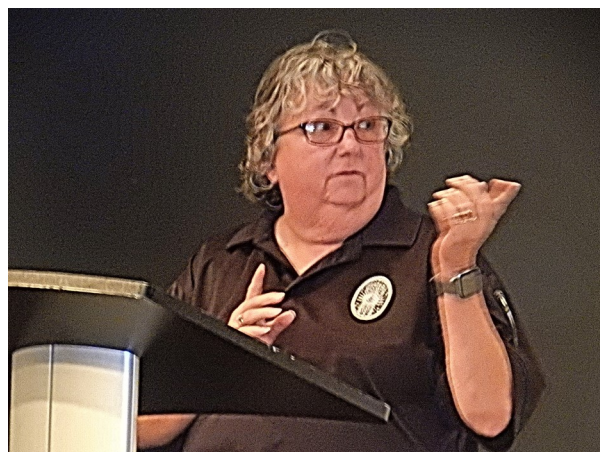


**Chief Banks**

The program began with a presentation on an active shooter situation by Corporal Bryson Ezell. Corporal Ezell is from West Virginia and came to Rehoboth by way of Marshall University. He is a certified trainer for active shooter protocols and has trained other departments and City of Rehoboth Beach staff among others. He showed a video produced by Texas State University's ALERRT Center, which has been contracted by the Federal Government to provide assistance and training for state and local governments around the country. A formal training class given by Corporal Ezell takes about 2 hours. The video which was about 15 minutes gave everyone an overview of what to do should you unfortunately ever be in an active shooter situation. As he noted, it is regrettable that this is something we should all need to know in the present world. The video covered the three basic steps - AVOID, DENY, DEFEND (ADD) - to protect yourself if ever in an active shooter situation. The video is available for anyone to view on U-tube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j0lt68YxLQQ>



Corporal Bryson Ezell



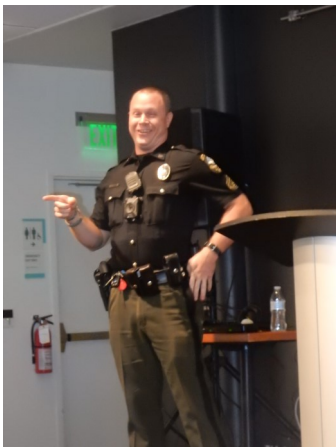
Tammy Ketterman

## RBHA Annual Meeting - Saturday - October 19 - by Charlie Browne

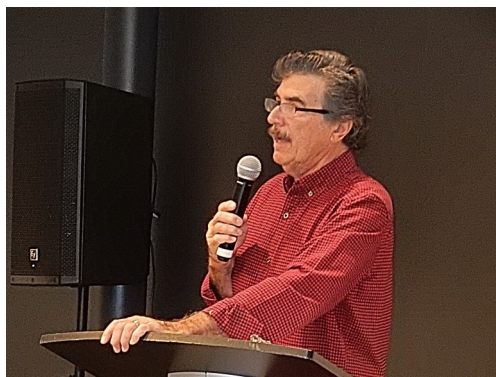
The second speaker was Communications Supervisor Tammy Ketterman who is in charge of the 911 center. Our 911 center is one of the most highly rated in the world and one of only 17 to have been certified as a Tri-Aced (Police, Fire, EMS) Center. It provides police dispatch for the City of Rehoboth and fire and EMS dispatch for a 36 square mile area of Sussex County that goes south to the Indian River and west to Angola. The 911 center is staffed 24 hours a day by two people and by three during peak occasions such as Sea Witch. All 911 centers in Delaware follow identical protocols and can assist one another or hand off calls to one another seamlessly if necessary. One of the things people do not realize when they call 911 is that the questions the 911 operator asks never delay the response to the emergency. While the operator is asking you questions to better help the responders, the other operator immediately begins dispatching the police, fire, or EMS response. Answering the questions in no way delays the response. The response arrival time in Rehoboth for 911 calls is less than 3 minutes. Within the city limits of Rehoboth, a policeman will also be sent for fire and EMS situations.

The third speaker was Lt. Jamie Riddle who has recently returned from a 10-week course for local police at the FBI's National Training Center in Quantico, Virginia. Lt. Riddle shared his experiences from the training. One of the more important aspects was meeting police officers from around the country and developing a network of other officers to contact for assistance. This will be a great benefit to our local police department. It is a great honor to Lt. Riddle and our local police department that he was selected to attend this prestigious training.

The final speaker was Chief of Police Keith Banks who talked about pedestrian safety on Rehoboth Avenue as well as plans to make it safer. He focused on the pedestrian crossings and the traffic circle. In Delaware a driver is supposed to yield to pedestrians who are in a crosswalk. There is no requirement to stop if a pedestrian is on the curb waiting to cross although many drivers will. The one problem is that drivers do not always see or recognize a crosswalk, and we have a lot of visitors. Plans are in the works to make our crosswalks much more recognizable to drivers. The traffic circle has been a great success although that is not always the perception of many. While there have been quite a few near misses at the circle, a near miss is not an accident. In the prior years before the circle was completed, there were over 50 accidents at the intersection. There have been only a few in the circle and one of those was an intoxicated driver who ran into the center of the circle.



Lt. Jamie Riddle



RBHA Treasurer Steve Curson



RBHA Members

# RBHA's Annual Employee Appreciation Breakfast

By Charlie Browne

On Wednesday, October 23, RBHA held its annual breakfast for the City employees at the Rehoboth Beach Convention Center. RBHA members arrived at "o'dark thirty" to decorate the tables with festive fall colors and flower center pieces and candy.

The buffet spread included fresh fruit platters, a variety of yogurts, bagels, pastries, coffee cakes, donuts, sausage and bacon egg and cheese sandwiches, orange juice and coffee.

Coming in shifts, the employees were able to take a much deserved break and enjoy conversations and laughs with fellow employees while dining at the RBHA sponsored breakfast.

Letting our great city employees know how much we appreciate their work throughout the year is the reason for the breakfast. It is one of the things we do as an organization that shows our best side. Each year the employees thank us for the breakfast but it really works the other way.



# RBHA's Annual Employee Appreciation Breakfast

By Charlie Browne



Back by popular demand, each employee received an envelope that either contained a \$20 dollar bill or a \$1 or \$2 "scratch ticket" which brought extra smiles and laughter to the breakfast. In addition, employees went home with mum centerpieces and candy that decorated the tables.

A special **thank you** to Mark Saunders and Jon Worthington who coordinated the Employee Appreciation Breakfast this year. Additional thanks go to the RBHA members who assisted with the breakfast: Steve Curson, Dick Byrne, Marcia Maldeis, Bob Thoman, Susan Gay, Elsie Burns, Stan Mills, and Gloria Walls.

This year's breakfast was a great success proven by no leftovers and many a thank you.



## RBHA Holds its 2019 Annual Picnic

RBHA members enjoyed an delightful fall day, that included a midday shower, at the annual RBHA picnic in Grove Park. The pavilion was decorated in mums and pumpkins as we joined friends and neighbors in celebrating our great city, and all it offers.

Like last year's event, we served delicious lunch choices from Frankie and Louie's Deli. Over 8 types of sandwiches were available including vegetarian choices. Tomato pies and trays of desserts were also on the menu. RBHA provided all the refreshments and drinks. The only thing our members had to bring was an appetite. The picnic was as always a great way to visit with neighbors while also meeting other members of RBHA and their families.

With the largest crowd ever of 80+ in attendance, including Representative Peter Schwartzkopf, and his granddaughter Minnie, State Auditor Kathy McGuiness and almost all of Rehoboth's commissioners, we declared this another successful picnic. Plans are already in place for next year's picnic, so stay tuned for the details.



Save the Date—RBHA's 2020 Picnic - Sunday September 20 2020



# RBHA Holds its Sixth Annual Picnic



Save the Date—RBHA's 2020 Picnic - Sunday September 20, 2020

# City News Briefs

By Commissioner Susan Gay

## Stormwater pipe replacement

Stormwater pipe replacement began in October, with completion of this phase expected by the end of November. The \$450,000 contract is for pipe replacement under the ocean block of Delaware Avenue and a section that runs under the dune from Wilmington Avenue south to Brooklyn Avenue. The next task will be city-wide video inspection and assessment of stormwater pipes to be carried out this winter. The results of those inspections will tell us what repairs are most needed next.

## Beach nourishment

On October 21, mobilization began for beach nourishment when trucks rolled through town carrying supplies to Deauville Beach. The crew from Great Lakes Dredge and Dock worked 24 hours per day and 7 days per week to complete contract work. They worked north to south, starting in Rehoboth Beach then went on to Dewey Beach, and the work is now complete.

## Philadelphia Street Water Main Replacement

The City replaced the water main on Philadelphia Street between Scarborough Avenue to Bayard Avenue. This project was done prior to resurfacing Philadelphia Street.

## Street paving

Between November 2019 and March 2020, street paving will be done on Philadelphia Street from Scarborough Avenue to King Charles; on Third Street from Lake Avenue to Columbia; and on Stockley Street from Hickman to Scarborough. If you live on one of these streets, you will be notified by letter of the date, duration, and construction activity to be performed.

## Pedestrian safety

Chief Keith Banks has presented options for increasing cross-walk safety through additional signage and lighting. The areas being discussed now are at Third, Fourth and Fifth Streets at Rehoboth Avenue. Further updates to come.

## The mural is complete!

Be sure to go over to the Convention Center and see the new coastal-themed mural! The City partnered with the Rehoboth Art League and artist Brett Steeves to create a wonderful and colorful mural that depicts iconic scenes of Rehoboth Beach. It is on the exterior of the Convention Center, visible from the Baltimore Avenue approach to the city on Steve Elkins Way.

## Increased parking revenue

We recently learned that revenue from metered parking is up \$1M over budget this year. City Manager Lynn reports that this is due to great weather, better technology and the \$1 increase in the hourly rate in the central business district. The revenue will go into the General Fund. City staff is preparing the next fiscal year budget and Commissioners will begin discussing it in January at special budget workshop meetings.



Artist Brett Steeves and the new mural

# City News Briefs

By Commissioner Susan Gay

## Commemorative Tree Fund

The City relaunched an updated version of its popular tree donation program to support the planting of trees on public property. Gifts ensure that future generations will enjoy the tree canopy of our seaside community! Local artist Bill Wolff was commissioned to create a tree sculpture permanently installed in the City Hall atrium. Each donor to the tree planting fund will have a custom engraved leaf attached to the tree sculpture. The Commemorative Tree Fund is a partnership between the City of Rehoboth Beach and the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Trees (MACT). For more information and to get a donation form, go to: <https://www.cityofrehoboth.com/residents/trees/commemorative-tree-program>.

## Building & Licensing Notice

Enclosed spaces of decks, balconies, and porches will now be counted as contributing to the sum of gross floor area (GFA) for purposes of calculating floor area ratio (FAR). The FAR is the relationship between the total amount of floor area that a building has or has been permitted to have and the total area of the lot on which the building stands. The Board of Adjustment upheld the Building Inspector's interpretation to include the square footage of such structures for computing gross floor area (GFA). Plans submitted prior to September 24, 2019, will be reviewed under the previous code interpretation. At some point in the future, the Commissioners will be discussing gross floor area and FAR calculations for both residential and commercial properties.

## Boardwalk recycling

Thanks to former Commissioner Stan Mills and the Boardwalk & Beach Committee, it looks like the City will once again have recycling on the boardwalk! Stay tuned for updates.

## New wayfinding signage

Last year, Commissioners first heard from a company called Merje Design that has been working with the county on Route 1 signage. They have created a unified signage system for Rehoboth to include directional signage and information kiosks. Parking, pedestrian, bicycle trail and gateway signage are all part of the package. Commissioners voted at the end of October to modify the 2020 fiscal year budget to authorize the expenditure of up to \$278,660 for this project. The timing is driven by the desire to have the signage in place next season.

## Comprehensive Development Plan

Thanks to all who completed the long survey for our new CDP this summer. Due to the time needed to analyze survey results and for future public meetings, the Planning Commission voted in September to extend the date for completion of the CDP to July 2021. Survey results can be found on the city website at: <https://cityofrehoboth.civicweb.net/filepro/documents/12267>. Stay tuned for updates and announcements of public meetings for discussions of key issues to be addressed in the CDP. Your input is critical!

## Meetings live-streamed and on-demand

Don't forget, not only can you watch all meetings of Commissioners, and all Committee and Board meetings, in real-time on your TV, computer, or mobile device but you can access them on-demand any time thereafter. Go to the city portal, <https://cityofrehoboth.civicweb.net/portal>, find the meeting date on the calendar, click on a selected meeting, the agenda will pop up and the video is linked there. OR you can visit <http://www.youtube.com/rehobothbeach> to access them through our channel.

REHOBOTH BEACH  
HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION  
P.O. BOX 41  
REHOBOTH BEACH, DE 19971



## Rehoboth Beach Homeowners' Association Newsletter

**December  
2019**

### RBHA Calendar 2020

**Saturday, December 28, 2019**

**10 AM** Board Meeting

**Saturday, February 15**

**10 AM** Board Meeting

**Saturday, March 21**

**10 AM** Board Meeting

**Saturday, April 18**

**10 AM** General Membership Meeting

**Friday, May 22**

**3 PM** Board Meeting

**Friday, June 12**

**3 PM** Board Meeting

**July 10,**

**3 PM** Board Meeting

**Friday, July 24**

Candidate Forum

**6:30 PM**

**Friday, August 28**

**3 PM** Board Meeting

**Sunday, September 20**

**11:30 a.m.**

RBHA Picnic in Grove Park

**Saturday, October 17,**

**10 AM** Annual Meeting.

**November**

No Meeting

**December**

No Meeting

**Saturday, January 2, 2021**

**10 AM** Board Meeting

**All meetings are at CAMP Rehoboth, 37 Baltimore Avenue, and are open to the public.**