

# Rehoboth Beach Homeowners' Association

Incorporated 1971

January 2017

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This newsletter is published by the RBHA four times a year as an informational and educational tool for its members. Content is determined by the Communication Committee with guidance from the Board. Contributors include RBHA staff and other members of the community.

We welcome your comments and suggestions.

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RBHA  
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## President's Message



Welcome to RBHA's New Year's Newsletter for 2017. RBHA has just finished another great year thanks to the support of you, our members.

One of RBHA's primary purposes is to keep you informed of developments in our City that may impact its charm and quality of life. To this end, RBHA has taken an active role in collaboration with Save Our Lakes Alliance 3 (SOLA3) raising awareness of the environmental impact of the proposed Beach Walk development at the site of BayMart on Route 1. The letter submitted to the Planning Commission by RBHA and SOLA3 was published in the November 14th issue of the *Cape Gazette*. You can find it here: <http://www.capegazette.com/article/serious-concerns-raised-over-beach-walk/118931>.

Also in the Newsletter is an article on the trees of Rehoboth by Liz Lingo, our City Arborist, and an article on the planned expansion of the Rehoboth Beach Museum by Nancy Alexander, Executive Director of the RB Historical Society.

At the end of October RBHA once again sponsored our annual Employee Appreciation Breakfast for Rehoboth Beach city employees. Thank you breakfast coordinator, Jennifer Duncan, and all the other volunteers. At our Annual Meeting in October, Bob Yesbek, the Rehoboth Foodie, spoke about dining in and around Rehoboth which was delightful. In addition, we received an update on city affairs including beach replenishment and construction of the City Hall complex from City Manager Sharon Lynn and a presentation from City Arborist Liz Lingo. In case you were not at the meeting, a brief summary of the program and pictures can be found in this Newsletter.

The fourth annual RBHA Picnic was held in Grove Park on Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup>. Each year the picnic gets better. This year's picnic included sandwiches from Frank and Louie's on Baltimore Avenue. If you haven't been to our picnic before, please plan to come in September 2017. You won't be disappointed.

Enjoy the New Year's Newsletter and Happy New Year to all!!

Sincerely, *Charlie Browne*

Charlie Browne, RBHA President

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# Summary of RBHA Meetings

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By Jon Worthington

*All RBHA Meetings are Open to the Public*

## **July 16, 2016**—RBHA Board Meeting

The Treasurer's Report showed a checking account balance of \$7967.58. The Candidate newsletter was printed by Minute Man in Dewey who did an excellent job. We will continue to have newsletters printed there. The Candidate Forum is set for July 22. RBHA will co-host with CAMP Rehoboth at their building, starting at 6:30 p.m. The Annual Meeting is scheduled for October 15 at CAMP Rehoboth. Confirmed speakers are Sharon Lynn and Liz Lingo. Steve Curson will invite Bob Yesbek, aka the Rehoboth Foodie, to be keynote speaker. Coastal Cleanup is scheduled for Sept. 17. The Annual Picnic is scheduled for September 18. We will purchase the food for the picnic from Frankie and Louie's. RBHA sent an email to members regarding the like/dislike of the City's new Trash Ordinance. Susan presented findings and gave out copies of report submitted to Commissioners. The Board discussed an ideal memorial for Chuck Donohoe. A park bench was one suggestion.

## **September 3, 2016**—RBHA Board Meeting

Treasurer's Report: The closing checking account balance was \$5,186.31 and savings was \$285.17 for a total of \$5,756.65. There was a discussion about setting up guidelines for donations that the RBHA makes to various organizations. Lee Roy Candelaria will chair a committee to make suggestions and report back to the Board. Coastal Cleanup is scheduled for September 17 at the Wilmington Avenue and boardwalk gazebo from 9 a.m. to noon. The Employee Appreciation Breakfast for city employees will take place at the firehouse on October 19. The annual RBHA picnic is scheduled for September 18 and will start at noon in Grove Park. Postcards for the event have been mailed. Frankie and Louie's Deli will cater the picnic and provide a variety of sandwiches. The RBHA Annual Meeting is October 15 at 10:00 a.m. at CAMP Rehoboth. Speakers include Bob Yesbek, the Cape Gazette Foodies writer, Liz Lingo, the city arborist, and Sharon Lynn, the city manager. Postcards announcing the event will be mailed after the picnic. Mark Saunders and Toni Sharp will check with the city to find out if they have a source for benches and where it might be placed to honor Chuck Donohoe, a board member who died this spring. There will be a planning commission meeting in October to continue discussion of the BayMart proposed development. The last meeting lasted 4½ hours and raised numerous concerns about it. Ed McMahon is scheduled to give a talk at the Firehouse on Saturday, November 5. The talk will be about what makes a community unique and what constitutes a city personality. RBHA meetings for the remainder

of the year will be October 15, November 19, and December 31. All meetings are scheduled to be held at CAMP Rehoboth at 9:00 a.m.

## **October 15, 2016**—RBHA Board Meeting

Charlie Browne reported that the Coastal Cleanup was a success, especially the new t-shirts. Jennifer Duncan is coordinating the details for the Employee Breakfast, scheduled for Oct. 19. The next RBHA newsletter will be mailed in early December. The Board discussed articles to be written and agreed on a Nov. 10 deadline for submitting the articles. The Board discussed getting a bench in honor of Chuck Donohoe to be placed somewhere in the City. A motion to approve an expenditure for the bench was unanimously approved. Lee Roy Candelaria is chairing a committee to work on donation guidelines to use when considering future requests for charitable donations. Susan Gay will contact the nursery that supplied the tree that RBHA planted in the spring to ask about replacement. We have confirmation from Liz Lingo that the oak did not survive because of a tree boar infestation that was already present when it was planted. Charlie reported that by December all information will be gathered to give to the attorney who is filing paperwork for RBHA to be re-classified as a 501(c) (3). Meeting dates for 2017 were discussed. The Board agreed it would be best to hold all meetings at CAMP. In reviewing mailings for RBHA events, the Board concluded that bulk mailing saves considerably on postage costs but needs several weeks lead time.

## **November 19, 2016**—RBHA Board Meeting

The closing checking account balance was \$1,793.05 and the savings was \$465.25 for a total of \$2,258.30. Jennifer Duncan reported that the Employee Breakfast was a huge success again this year. The employees sent RBHA a thank you letter expressing their appreciation. There was some discussion on refining the amount/type of food next year. The next RBHA newsletter will be mailed in early December. RBHA Board members will be responsible for writing articles and forwarding them to Charlie Browne. RBHA Officers for 2017 were elected as follows: President: Charlie Browne; Vice President: Jon Worthington; Secretary: Lee Roy Candelaria; Treasurer: Steve Curson. The Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) is now taking written comments regarding permits for the proposed City of Rehoboth Beach wastewater projects. Public comment period will end on December 2, 2016. Susan Gay has drafted a letter on behalf of the RBHA to be sent to DNREC. The Board approved sending the letter to DNREC.

# RBHA Holds its 4th Annual Picnic at Grove Park

– by Steve Curson

Wow, we did it again. Our fourth Annual Picnic was held on Sunday, September 23<sup>th</sup> at Grove Park.



The picnic committee did a superb job, and we had great fun in coming together and sharing our stories and food with some of the best neighbors ever. This year's picnic had several changes from the previous ones. The day and time of the picnic were changed from Saturday evening to Sunday lunchtime. We wanted to try this change so people didn't have to worry about trying to fit it in before dinner and early enough for the ones who have to leave town on Sunday.



Instead of having our usual grilled hamburgers and hot-dogs, we tried something different. We ordered Italian delights from Frank and Louie's, including 8 different types of sub sandwiches, a breakfast quiche, tomato pie and other goodies. Based on what was left at the end, I'd have to say



that everyone thoroughly enjoyed the new menu. People brought their favorite side dishes and desserts to share too. Thanks for that, gang.



The RBHA wishes to thank everyone who came, including the Mayor and his wife Diane and several commissioners. We are already making plans for next year's event; stay tuned for all the details.

Photo compilation of previous years' picnics.



# RBHA Annual Meeting – Saturday, October 15, 2016



The Rehoboth Beach Homeowners' Association held its Annual Meeting on Saturday, October 15, 2016, at the CAMP Rehoboth Community Center. The program began with a welcome by Steve Elkins, left, Executive Director of CAMP Rehoboth, who invited everyone to attend CAMP's Block Party on Baltimore Avenue the following day, October 16.



Charlie Browne recapped the many activities of the RBHA over the past year including Coastal Cleanup and the annual picnic. Susan Gay, right, announced that Ed McMahon will give a presentation at the Firehouse on November 5, 2016, on the distinctiveness of communities.



President Charlie Browne, above & left introduced the RBHA Board and thanked Steve Elkins and CAMP Rehoboth for the use of its facilities over the past year.

Steve Curson, right, presented the treasurer's report which was approved as were the minutes of the 2015 Meeting.



Jennifer Duncan, left, reported on the employee appreciation breakfast to be held at the Firehouse on October 19, 2016, from 7:30 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. to honor our city employees.

The speakers for the Annual Meeting were Liz Lingo, City Arborist; Sharon Lynn, City Manager; and Bob Yesbek, the Rehoboth Foodie.

Liz Lingo has held the position of City Arborist since April 2016. Ms. Lingo grew up in Rehoboth and previously worked in New York City and Montgomery County, Maryland, as an arborist. Liz, right, noted that Rehoboth Beach has the distinction of being a wooded seaside community. There is a new city website on resources for trees and an interactive map. This winter the trees on Rehoboth Avenue and Scarborough Avenue are to be trimmed. In addition, dead trees and ivy on trees will be removed in Deer Park and Central Park.



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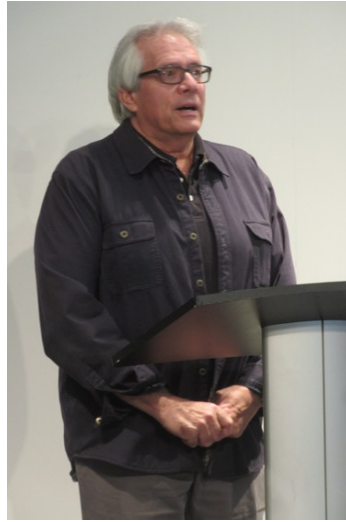


The second speaker was the City Manager, Sharon Lynn, left. The City has spent 16 months on the development plan for ocean outfall. There will be a public workshop on October 19 at 6 p.m. at the Firehouse with a presentation given by DNREC. A public hearing for permits will

be held at the Rehoboth Beach Elementary School on November 15. Permits are scheduled for February 2017 with completion by April 2018. The roof on the city sewage treatment plant collapsed with the recent heavy rainfall and is now being replaced. The new City Hall is expected to have its roof in place by De-



cember, and the move-in date is July 2017. The Lake Avenue construction is currently underway. New sidewalks are to be installed and handicap access added. The dredging project on Silver Lake has been started by DNREC. The new trash collection ordinance was voted on by the commissioners in April and a pilot valet trash collection was started for 48 homes. There are private trash collectors who will also valet trash plus recyclables and yard waste. There have been 26 violations issued with 8 repeat offenders, but no fines as of yet. Many people have commented how much better the City looks!



The keynote speaker, Rehoboth Foodie, Bob Yesbek, left, moved to Rehoboth Beach 14 years ago and has been writing the Rehoboth Foodie column for the Cape Gazette and the Beach Paper for the last 8 years. He is also a food critic for Coastal Style Magazine and hosts the “Sip and Bite” program on Delaware Radio 105.9, and has a smartphone app enti-

titled “Rehoboth in my Pocket” with over 30,000 subscribers. He noted that there are currently 265 restaurants in the Cape region. One of his tasks has been categorizing restaurants by specialty. He also covers wine and cheese. He was asked what he thought were the 5 best restaurants in the area. His favorites are The Back Porch Cafe, the Henlopen City Oyster House, Confucius, Michy’s, and Heirloom.





# Delaware Coastal Cleanup 2016

## The Results Are In for Rehoboth Beach!

- by Jennifer Duncan



**Great News! Our Beach was found to be quite clean!** Some volunteers speculated that this is because the City does a great job raking our beach and visitors have become more environmentally aware of the importance to remove their trash and not bury it in the sand.



This year's coastal cleanup was held on Saturday, September 17, from 9am – 12 noon. Volunteers met at the gazebo on Wilmington Avenue and the Boardwalk, where the RBHA volunteers had the folks sign in, handed out T-shirts, trash bags, gloves, and collection forms. The area they covered was all of our beach, from one end of the Boardwalk to the other. This annual clean-up is sponsored and organized by the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control as a part of the annual International Coastal Cleanup.

very little trash, our dunes and the section of sand between the boardwalk and the dunes were a different story: 1,111 cigarette butts, 812 food wrappers and 629 pieces of foam were found, mostly in that area. Some volunteers wondered if the extraordinary large number of foam pieces could have been deposited by the ocean on our beach during Hermine and caught in the dunes during the wind. That is certainly possible. There were only 2 more triple-digit categories of items found: 282 straws/stirrers and 146 bottle caps. The most unusual item found was what looked like a tailpipe, probably washed in during Hermine. Nothing dangerous was found.



This year, because almost all volunteers were seasoned returnees, we sent them into the protected dunes as well as on the beach. While the beaches yielded

(L-R) Two cleanup volunteers with RBHA Board Member Jennifer Duncan & RBHA Board Member Bill Sargent

*Continued next page.*

Volunteers did, unfortunately, discover 3 dead Sea Gulls in the dunes. This was reported to DNREC, who “owns” the dunes, for removal as required by the protocol. The City was also notified. While the RBHA does not know how the gulls died, everyone should remember not to feed the gulls. While some call gulls “annoying and pesky” here is an interesting fact that may make you look at the Sea Gull in a different light:

The Sea Gull is the Utah State bird in commemoration of the fact that these gulls saved the people of the State by eating up hordes of crickets which were destroying the crops in 1848. As written on the State of Utah online library: *“Orson F. Whitney says that in the midst of the devastation of the crickets, “when it seemed that nothing could stay the devastation, great flocks of gulls appeared, filling the air with their white wings and plaintive cries, and settled down upon the half-ruined fields. All day long they gorged themselves, and when full, disgorged and feasted again, the white gulls upon the black crickets, list hosts of heaven and hell contending, until the pests were vanquished and the people were saved.” After devouring the crickets, the gulls returned “to the lake islands whence they came.”*

It turns out that Sea Gulls are resourceful, inquisitive and intelligent birds, demonstrating complex methods of communication and a highly developed social structure.

*“To begin with, you’ve got to understand that a Sea Gull is an unlimited idea of freedom” - [Richard Bach](#), Jonathan Livingston Seagull.*

Please join us next September at the same location –A special thanks to Charlie Browne, President of the RBHA, who helped run this event.

## The Rehoboth Beach Historical Society invites you to help complete our museum

– by Nancy Alexander



### ***A Successful Start:***

The Rehoboth Beach Historical Society was begun in 1974 by a group of citizens who believed in the importance of preserving artifacts illustrating the founding of the City of Rehoboth Beach. The Society maintained the Anna Hazzard Tent House for a number of years. However, the Society quickly outgrew its space and began looking for a location that would do justice to the growing collection.

The museum building started its life as an ice house, and it operated as such until the 1960s. Former Historical Society President Warren MacDonald had the vision to suggest that the City join in a partnership with the Society to turn the building into a museum. Since 2002, more than \$1.7 million has been raised from a combination of public and private sources to renovate the building. Nearly 1,000 individuals throughout the community have supported this effort. The museum opened to the public in 2007 and hosts more than 4,000 visitors a year.

### ***A Great Future:***

Now it is the Society’s task to complete the building, covering the remaining construction costs for the first floor, and raising the rest of the funds to complete the second floor. A total of \$600,000 is needed to complete the building and its exhibit spaces to the exacting standards that the Society demands for the care and management of its collection. We are nearly three-quarters of the way there.

### ***How can you help? Make a gift...***

Any gift of any amount is welcome. There are still naming gift opportunities available, and gifts of \$1,000 or more will be recognized on the donor wall in the lobby of the museum. Naming gift opportunities remain for a number of spaces within the building, but, again, gifts at all levels are most welcome. Ask us all about it. Call Nancy Alexander at (302) 227-7310 or email her at [director@rehobothbeachmuseum.org](mailto:director@rehobothbeachmuseum.org).





## RBHA Hosts Annual

City of Rehoboth Beach

# Employee Appreciation Breakfast 2016

– by Jennifer Duncan

On October 19 RBHA held its breakfast for the City employees on the second floor of the Fire Hall as the Convention Center is undergoing renovation. Board members who were in town arrived at “o’ dark thirty” to decorate the tables with festive fall colors and set up a breakfast buffet for all City employees. Mark Saunders repeated his gracious donations of last year by, once again, bringing eight beautiful floral arrangements he took the time to make himself and placed on each table. Jon Worthington surprised the breakfast buffet line up by bringing 30 McDonald’s “right off the grill” breakfast sandwiches, and Carol Popham brought scrumptious apple turnovers. Their additions completed the buffet spread that included fresh fruit platters, a variety of yogurts, bagels, pastries, cheese spreads, juices, milk 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. Commissioner Toni Sharp arrived to assist the RBHA volunteers to set up the breakfast and was later joined by fellow Commissioners Stan Mills and Kathy McGinnis who were able to stop by to chat with the employees. “Breakfast on Wheels,” was again carried to the various City buildings so that those employees who could not attend could share the tasty goods.

This year, each employee received an envelope that either contained a \$20 dollar bill or \$1 or \$2 “scratch ticket” which brought a new level of anticipation and



laughter to the breakfast. In addition, eight employees went home with the floral centerpieces and eight more with centerpiece ceramics that were overflowing with sweets.

When they thanked us, we responded with, we thank you for all you do for us throughout the year.



A special thanks to Jon Worthington, Steve Curson, Lee Roy Candelaria, Bob Miller, Bill Sargent, Toni Sharp, Carol Popham and Mark Saunders (who, by the way, many City employees think is a florist in disguise) for their help in making the breakfast a big success.

Until next year!




L-R. Detective Tyler Whitman, Chief Keith Banks (seated), Cpl. Eric Hiller, Commissioner Stan Mills, Commissioner Lorraine Zellers, Lt. William Sullivan, Tammy Ketterman, 911 Communications Supervisor



# COMMUNITY CALENDAR 2017

## January

- 9 Commissioners' Workshop, 9 AM Fire Hall
- 10 *Coffee with a Cop*. Sit, sip coffee and chat with RB and DB police. Free. Sponsored by the RB Public Library.  2:00 PM at the library on Rehoboth Avenue.
- 13 Planning Commission, 2:30 PM Fire Hall
- 14 "Let's Misbehave! True Confessions of the GMCW." Gay Men's Chorus of Washington D.C., CAMP Rehoboth. Shows at 4PM & 8PM Fee. 227-5620 
- 17 Cinema & Art. Movie 7:00 PM at Cinema Art Theater Route 1. RAL 227-8408
- 20 Commissioners' Meeting, 7 PM Fire Hall
- 23 Board of Adjustment, 7 PM Fire Hall
- 27 & 28 CAMP Rehoboth Chorus Concert: **"Come Fly With Me."** A musical journey around the world! Epworth Church, Holland Glade Rd. 7 p.m. Fee. 302-227-5620 
- 29 CAMP Rehoboth Chorus Concert: **"Come Fly With Me"** A musical journey around the world! Epworth Church, 3 p.m. Fee. 302-227-5620
- 6 Commissioners' Workshop, 9 AM Fire Hall
- 10 Planning Commission, 3:00 PM Fire Hall
- 17 Commissioners Meeting, 7 PM Fire Hall
- 18 **RBHA Board Meeting 9 AM CAMP Rehoboth Community Center, Baltimore Av. All are welcome.**
- 19 Merchant's Attic Garage Sale. State's largest indoor garage sale, 10:30-2:30 PM. Cape Henlopen High School. No admission fee; donations to benefit Chamber Event Fund. RB-DBCC, www.beach-fun.com
- 27 Board of Adjustment, 7 PM Fire Hall

## March

- 6 Commissioners' Workshop, 9 AM Fire Hall
- 10 Planning Commission, 3:00 PM Fire Hall
- 17 Commissioners' Meeting, 7 PM Fire Hall
- 18 **RBHA Board Meeting 9 AM CAMP Rehoboth Community Center, Baltimore Av. All are welcome.**
- 18 Beach Grass Planting 9 AM—noon sponsored by DNREC. Check DNREC website to register. 302-739-9921.
- 18 27th Annual RB Chocolate Festival. Atlantic Sands Hotel.
- 27 Board of Adjustment, 7 PM Fire Hall

## April

- 2-7 Bus trip to Asheville, NC—Biltmore Estate. Fee. Cape Henlopen Sr. Ctr. 227-2055
- 6-9 17th Annual CAMP Rehoboth's Women's FEST 2017. Shows, workshops, art brunches, photography exhibits & more! 227-5620 camprehoboth.com 
- 10 Commissioners' Workshop, 9 AM Fire Hall
- 22-23 20th Annual Delaware Resorts Home Expo. Free. Cape Henlopen High School. Saturday 9-6;

Sunday 10-3. Exhibitors: Realtors, builders, home service companies. Benefits Habitat for Humanity. Sponsored by RehobothToday.com, LewesToday.com, the Cape Gazette newspaper and Comcast Spotlight. Information 302-236-0857

14 Planning Commission, 3:00 PM Fire Hall

15 **RBHA General Membership Meeting. 10 AM. CAMP Rehoboth Community Center, Baltimore Av. Program to be announced. Board meeting to follow. All are welcome.**

17 Trash collection resumes twice a week pickup.

21 Commissioners' Meeting, 7 PM Fire Hall

24 Board of Adjustment, 7 PM Fire Hall

24-28 Bulk refuse pickup—south sections of city. 227-6181

28 Recyclables collection resumes weekly Friday pickups.

## May

- May 1-5 Bulk refuse pickup—north sections of city plus Schoolvue. 227-6181
- 19-21 34th Annual Spring Sidewalk Sale. RB-DB Chamber of Commerce. 302-227-2233

Note that some venues are relocated temporarily because of the temporary closure of city hall and the convention hall for reconstruction. Be sure to double-check on locations of any events that previously have been conducted at city hall or in the convention hall.

City meetings are noted as being held in the "Fire Hall" - the second floor meeting room of the Rehoboth Beach Volunteer Fire Company on Rehoboth Avenue. Meeting room is handicap accessible.

All activity dates & times are subject to change and to author error. Check with venue.



Admission by donation.

Ongoing exhibits:

- ◆ **Wish You Were Here!**
  - ◆ **Delaware Beach Life Magazine photo contest winners**
- rehobothbeachmuseum.org  
302-227-7310

See more events on the world wide web (www.) at:

- camprehoboth.com
- capehenlopieniorcenter.org
- rehobothartleague.org
- rehobothfilm.com
- rehobothbeachvia.org



## Hours

Monday	10am-8pm
Tuesday	10am-8pm
Wednesday	10am-8pm
Thursday	10am-5pm
Friday	10am-5pm
Saturday	10am-3pm

Bookdrop open 24/7

www.rehobothlibrary.org  
227-8044

## City Administrative Office Hours

### Year Round

Mon-Fri 8:30 a.m.— 4:30 p.m.

### May 26—August 26

Also open on Saturdays  
8:30 a.m.—Noon

Phone (302) 227-6181

www.cityofrehoboth.com

The City administrative offices are temporarily relocated to trailers behind the fire department.

## February

- 3-5 **Polar Bear Weekend!** 5K Run, Polar Bear Plunge and more to benefit Special Olympics. 302-831-4653 or www.PlungeDe.org



- 5 26th Annual **Polar Bear Plunge** into the Atlantic Ocean. 1:00 PM. www.PlungeDe.org



## Rehoboth Beach and Its Trees

— by Liz Lingo, Rehoboth Beach City Arborist



In Rehoboth Beach, the trees play a defining role in our City's unique character. Our urban forest, which is composed of all private and public trees, is consistently a topic of interest and concern. From the adoption of a tree code, hiring a staff arborist, investment in a tree inventory, and more recent articles and letters in the newspaper, it's clear that we value our trees. The tree inventory in 2012 recorded about 1,500 trees and appraised them at over \$2 million. But besides that dollar amount, there are environmental, health, and intrinsic values attributed to trees. As pressures from development and tourism continue to rise, it is increasingly important that we protect and enhance our urban forest.



To that point, the City works constantly to maintain existing trees, plant new trees, and foster positive public interest. Currently, we have a few interesting events occurring:

There's a new website resource for trees (<http://www.cityofrehoboth.com/residents/trees>) with FAQs, forms, and tree care advice.

We've updated the tree inventory and included an interactive map, which will soon be available online.

This winter, we plan to prune select trees on Rehoboth Ave., at the Stockley St. tot-lot, and along Scarborough Ave. median.

New City Hall landscape and tree planting plans are in development and review.

A contractor recently removed 25 dead trees in Deer Park and Central Park.

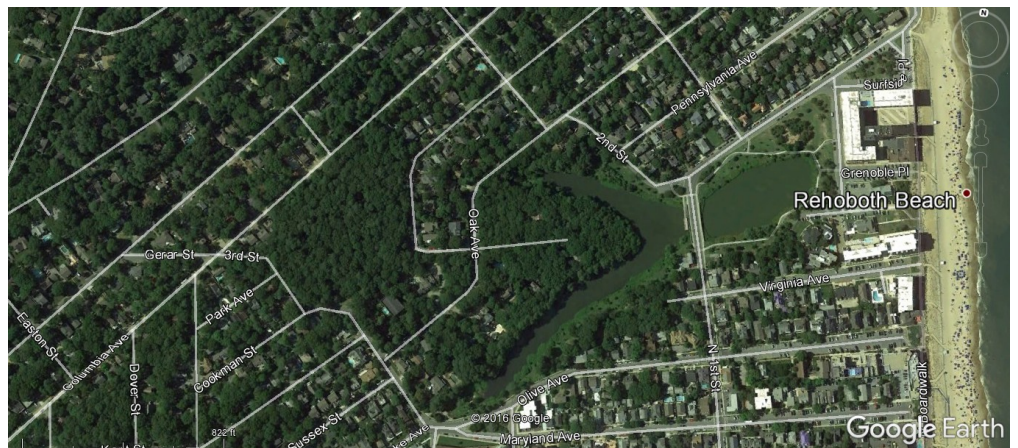
A group of volunteers formed the "Ivy league" group to combat invasive English ivy in parks.

City workers will plant 23 new trees along Rehoboth Ave. in November.

Although the City maintains its parks and planted trees, I also receive questions regarding privately owned trees. While the tree code covers issues surrounding private property trees, such as removal and replanting, there are often questions that fall outside of the code's scope.

One of the most common questions relates to neighboring tree problems. If a neighbor's tree is dead, the City can step in to require the tree's removal. However, most complaints relate to limbs over property lines or other nuisances. If this is the case, my recommendation is to speak to the tree owner and attempt to resolve the issue. However, it is usually not the tree owner's responsibility to prune those limbs. If an agreement can't be reached, the tree limbs may be pruned back towards the property line— but, keep in mind that trees have a natural shape and aggressive pruning may worsen the problem.

The other request I receive regularly is for a private property tree evaluation. Although I generally can't provide an onsite assessment, I can offer guidance. At the heart of the request, though, is a desire for an unbiased opinion. The best advice I can relate is two-fold. First, find an arborist and develop a relationship with that arborist. He or she should have a vested interest in your trees and be more likely to dispense impartial advice. Lastly, don't remove a tree just because it has one flaw. While no tree is perfect, some problems can be fixed and some can't.



Google Earth aerial photo of portion of city north of Maryland Avenue including Lake Gerar and Central Park to highlight the magnificent tree canopy



# City News Briefs

By Stan Mills



## CITY HALL COMPLEX REBUILD CONTINUES

As evidenced in the photo above, the three floors are framed in and awaiting completion of the roofing structure. The job site has been busy with electricians, steel workers, plumbers, masons and more trades all working toward occupancy in mid-2017.

## RESTAURANT SIZE LIMITS RE-FORMULATED

Restaurants where alcoholic liquor is sold or consumed on the premises used to have a size limit that was the sum of all floor areas including dining and bar areas and kitchen and restroom areas. Newly adopted size limitations are now based only on the dining and bar areas thus allowing for unlimited size restrictions for non-public areas such as the kitchen, storage areas and restrooms.

## BEACH TENTS AND TOILET TENTS?

Can these be a nuisance or danger? Ex-

pected to be on a future Commissioners' workshop agenda.

## RESIDENTIAL RENTAL ORDINANCE

New forms, applications and an illustrated guide have been developed by the city in preparing to implement the new residential rental ordinance adopted in April 2016. This ordinance seeks to partner with landlords to ensure a good rental experience for all. Some of the requirements include providing a local contact person that can be reached 24/7 when needed; furnishing the rental tenants with information on noise control, waste collection days, etc., establishing occupancy limits and performing a safety self-inspection of each rental property. The city administration is mailing all landlords more information soon.

## BREWERY-PUBS NOW PERMITTED

A recently adopted zoning amendment now establishes conditions for operation of brewery-pubs in commercial zones. In the past brewery-pubs were not a permitted use.

## TREES

The existing tree ordinance still is intended to undergo a review. Mayor Cooper is putting together a group "to steer things related to trees and to try to create a positive interest with trees in the City."

## BUDGET MEETINGS SET

City manager Sharon Lynn already is preparing a first draft of the 2017-2018 budget.

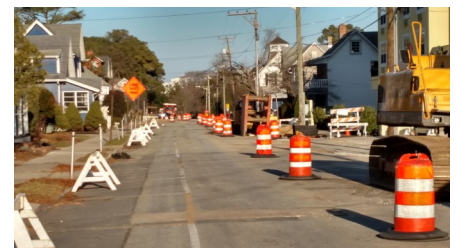
Some preliminary budget requests by one or more Commissioners included consideration of funding for:

- Landscaping and trees
- ADA compliance
- [Commercial] streetscape improvements
- Waterbody health enhancements including attention to storm drainage
- Full time attendants in public restrooms during the summer
- More police presence on the boardwalk at night in the summer
- Study traffic on various roadways
- Develop a public dock on the canal
- More wayfinding signage
- Completion of City Hall project

These and other topics will likely receive more discussion at the budget meetings. Dates for the first two budget meetings are Monday, January 9, 2017 at 1:00 PM and Thursday, January 19, 2017 at 8:30 AM in the Commissioners' Room at the fire hall.

## LAKE AVE. STREETSCAPE IN PROGRESS

Lake Avenue between Rehoboth Avenue and Third Street is undergoing improvements to storm drainage, road surfaces, parking and sidewalks. The project is slated for completion for summer and will give us improved drainage, better overhead lighting, even travel lanes and sidewalks on both sides of the street.



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# City Meeting News

This article reports major developments at recent meetings of the committees used by the City of Rehoboth Beach to govern municipal matters.

Meetings of the Mayor and City Commissioners are summarized by Mark Saunders from the Approved Minutes of the Meetings.

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## Summary of Recent Commissioners Meetings

Below is a summary of the minutes of recent meetings of the Board of Commissioners. For the full content of the minutes, please visit the City's website.

### **Board of Commissioners Meeting – July 15, 2016**

**NEW BUSINESS:** A petition was reviewed requesting the removal of the prohibition of on-street parking between midnight and 6 a.m. on the ocean block of St. Lawrence Street. Several letters in support of keeping the prohibition were also considered. It was agreed that the City Manager will poll all affected homeowners and report back at the next meeting.

The Board approved three nominations to serve as election officials in this year's municipal election to be held August 13, 2016. Approved were Wayne Steele, Steve Elkins, and Melissa Clink. Mayor Cooper thanked past judge of elections, Nancy Meadows, for her service of many years. The Board also appointed Jennifer Duncan to another term on the Board of Elections.

**CITY MANAGER REPORT:** City Manager Sharon Lynn's report included updates on the Lake Avenue project as well as the ongoing City Hall project. She noted a change order of \$83,000 was approved for construction drains, not included in original documents.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:** Commission Kuhns commented that the issue of off season meters received many negative comments. Therefore, he suggested no further discussion on the subject.

### **Board of Commissioners Meeting - August 19, 2016**

**PRESENTATION:** Nancy Alexander, Executive Director of the Rehoboth Beach Historical Society, presented a very interesting look at the current activities of the Society and their current project to expand into the second floor of the Museum.

**OLD BUSINESS:** After discussion and review of poll taken of the residents who live on St. Lawrence Street, a motion was made to repeal the prohibition of overnight parking on the ocean block of St. Lawrence Street. The motion passed unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS:** A motion was made and unanimously approved to award the Lake Avenue Construction job to the low bidder with funding for the project primarily Federal

administered by DELDOT.

### **Board of Commissioners Meeting - September 16, 2016**

The Oath of Office was administered to Commissioners Stan Mills and Commissioner Toni Sharp, who were both reelected to the Board by the voters of the City of Rehoboth Beach.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** A petition was reviewed from property owners on Kent and Dover Streets requesting the installation of storm water drains. The matter will be placed on a future agenda.

**PERMIT HEARING:** Fins Fish House LLC presented a request to expand the restaurant located at 243 Rehoboth Avenue. Public comment was heard and discussion held. There was no major objection, and a motion was made to approve the request. The motion carried unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS:** A motion was made to alter the ordinance which regulates hours of construction so that violations would be changed from a criminal offense to a civil offense with a \$100 fine. The motion carried unanimously.

**CITY MANAGER REPORT:** The Lake Ave project is to begin September 26th and hopefully be completed by May of 2017. Parking revenue is slightly ahead of budget and is approximately \$4 million dollars this year.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS;** Rehoboth Beach Homeowners Association will be hosting Coastal Cleanup on September 17th. All are welcome to participate.

### **Board of Commissioners Meeting – October 16, 2016**

**REPORT OF THE PLANNING COMMISSIONS:** Chairman Mellen reported on the Planning Commission meeting, that had occurred earlier in the day, to continue site plan review for Beach Walk. At that meeting the Planning Commission voted unanimously to declare Beach Walk a subdivision. Review of the site plan was tabled at today's meeting so that the applicant can respond to subdivision decision.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

#1. A Public hearing was held on an ordinance amending Chapter 270 (Section 270-4, 270-19, 270-28, 270-53, and 27-54) related to restaurants, dining patios, brewery-pubs and other establishments that serve alcohol. Decision: adopted 6-0 (Commissioner Kuhns absent). Seated dining now limited to 2500 sq. feet with no maximum on total

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restaurant size to allow for kitchen renovations and equipment, ADA-compliant bathrooms, etc.

#2. A Public hearing was held on an ordinance amending Chapter 270, by adding a new Section 270-23.1 related to clarifying that no more than one single-family dwelling may be constructed on a lot in all zoning districts. Decision: deferred to next Commissioner's workshop, Nov. 7.

#3. A Public hearing was held on an ordinance amending Chapter 270, by adding a new Section 270-46.1.1, related to requiring the entrance to dwelling units be located in proximity to a public street. Decision: adopted 5-1 (Commissioner Kuhns absent, Commissioner McGuinness no).

OLD BUSINESS: Adoption of ordinance amending Chapter 215, Restaurants, of City Code, related to regulation and permitting of restaurants that serve alcohol. Definitions updated as well as language concerning permits of compliance. Adopted unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS: A Resolution for emergency replacement of the roof on the Wastewater Treatment Plant and allow the City Manager to dispense with the normal bidding procedure was approved unanimously.

A policy related to submission of electronic documents to the City was adopted unanimously.

The Board confirmed re-appointments of commissioners with expiring terms on the Planning Commission, Parks & Shade Tree Commission, and Board of Adjustment and appointed Al Morris to 3-year term on Board of Elections.

## **BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT HIGHLIGHTS**

### **Board of Adjustment Meeting - July 25, 2016**

Linda Kauffman was introduced as the newest member of the board.

Case # 1- The applicant appealed a decision of the building inspector who had denied a rehab permit of two single family dwellings on the owners site located at 26 Lake Avenue. The building inspector argued that if either building was raised up, as in foundation repair, it would be considered removed, and therefore no longer grandfathered. Therefore, they could not be put back down - as two dwellings are no longer allowed on a single lot. After a long and exhausting discussion of the issues, it was agreed by consensus of the owner and the board that the owner could proceed with remodeling, provided the owner did not raise or remove either structure from site, and followed all other rules governing such remodeling projects.

Case #2- Saint Edmonds Church requested a special exception to replace the existing wooden manual sign with a more modern electric sign, in same location, but slightly taller than the existing sign. Considerable support was

given by email and by several city residents, all speaking in favor of approval. A motion was made to approve, and carried by a 4/1 vote.

Old business - It was discussed that the solicitor of the board should compose formal decisions of its hearings. Motion passed 2/1.

### **Board of Adjustment Meeting - August 22, 2016**

Case #1 - The owners of a new building project located at 103 Lake Drive requested a variance to allow them to increase the roof height of a garage so that it could be used as an exercise room. The building inspector argued that the area would be living area and, therefore, is not allowed over a detached garage. Owner argued that it would be similar and equal to a workshop or storage room, which is allowed, and only the height of the roof should be at issue. The owner further noted a hardship, in that exercise was medically necessary to him, and his machine required an 8-foot ceiling. The board received several letters both supporting and disapproving of the variance request. The variance request was denied by a unanimous vote of the board.

Case #2 - The owners of Fins Fish House at 243 Rehoboth Avenue requested a variance to exceed the 5000 sf limitation on size of existing restaurants. The owner would like to utilize more existing space in the building to make it more efficient for use. No one spoke out against said expansion. A motion was made, and passed by the board, allowing the requested variance.

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## **Breaking News — City Hall update**

We've just learned that the City has been able to secure a bond in the maximum principal amount of up to \$18 million at a fixed interest rate of only 2.375% for a 25 year loan period. This equates to an approximate savings of \$123,000.00/year and \$3 million of savings for the length of the loan.

We are very pleased that the City remains committed to its longtime philosophy of being fiscally conservative with taxpayer money.

More information can be found in the City Manager's Spotlight, on the City website, at: <https://www.cityofrehoboth.com/government/city-managers-office/city-managers-spotlight>.

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



**Happy**  
*New Year!*

## Rehoboth Beach Homeowners' Association Newsletter

**January 2017**

### RBHA Calendar 2017

No meetings in January

**Saturday, February 18, 2017**

9 AM Board Meeting

**Saturday, March 18**

9AM Board Meeting

**Saturday, April 15**

10 AM General Membership Meeting

11:30 AM Board Meeting

**Saturday, May 20**

9AM Board Meeting

**Saturday, June 17**

9 AM Board Meeting

**Saturday, July 15**

9 AM Board Meeting

**Friday, July 28**

*(Tentative date)*

Candidate Forum

6:30 PM

No meetings in August

**Saturday, September 3**

9 AM Board Meeting

**Saturday, September 16**

Coastal Cleanup Activity in morning

**Sunday, September 24**

RBHA Picnic in Grove Park

Noon

**Saturday, October 21**

10 AM General Membership Meeting

11:30 AM Board Meeting

**Saturday, November 15**

9 AM Board Meeting

**Saturday, December 31, 2017**

9 AM Board Meeting

All meetings are held at CAMP Rehoboth— 37 Baltimore Avenue and are open to the public.