

Rehoboth Beach Homeowners' Association

Incorporated 1971

November 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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President's Message

Welcome to RBHA's Fall 2017 Newsletter.

It's been a busy fall in Rehoboth Beach. We have a new mayor, a new commissioner, and a new city hall. RBHA's Annual Meeting on Saturday, October 21, included a tour of our new municipal complex. If you were not able to join us, the newsletter contains an article and pictures.

Sunday, September 24, was the date of RBHA's Annual Picnic at Grove Park. This year's picnic was the best yet. Please plan on joining us next year on Sunday, September 16, 2018. I know it's a while off, but you will be glad you came.

On Saturday, September 16, RBHA was once again the sponsor for Coastal Clean Up for the part of our beach adjacent to the boardwalk. On October 11th another RBHA tradition took place - the Employee Appreciation Breakfast for our great city employees. Both Coastal Clean Up and the Employee Appreciation Breakfast were coordinated by the amazing Jennifer Duncan. There is a huge amount of work and time that goes into the planning of these events. But year after year Jennifer makes it look easy. Please give Jennifer a big thank you the next time you see her in making our association, run by volunteers, so organized, efficient and professional.

Congratulations to our new mayor, Paul Kuhns, our new commissioner, Lisa Schlosser, and re-elected commissioner, Kathy McGuiness. All are RBHA members and have been great friends of RBHA. Congratulations also to RBHA members Susan Gay and Rick Perry who were recently appointed to the Planning Commission. Susan is also a member of the RBHA Board. Finally, a BIG thank you to Sam Cooper for his many years of service to our city.

Enjoy our fall newsletter!

Sincerely,

Charlie Browne, RBHA President

Charlie Browne

Into the Dunes they went!

Since the City does such 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 we sent our **70 plus volunteers** primarily into the fenced off dunes. If you are not aware, the dunes are the areas fenced off with planted beach grass and serve as our first line of defense against storm surge and flooding. They are managed by the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC).

This is what they returned to us at our Coastal Cleanup headquarters site—the gazebo on Wilmington Avenue and the Boardwalk within a 3 hour time span.

- Over double the amount of cigarette butts from last year—2,427
- An increase of 25% in food wrappers----1,002
- A slight increase in bottle caps----169
- More cigar tips than last year---103
- A decrease in straws/stirrers by about 40%----169
- Foam and plastic pieces combined were----845
- Plastic beverage bottles, plastic bags, paper bags, and plastic items in general each hovered close to triple digits, counted from 80 to 93.
- In addition, some of the other items found were Frisbees, footballs, a golf ball, rubber balls, plastic toys, balloons, plastic lids, 6-pack holders, and one lucky person found 50 cents!

Nothing dangerous or unusual was found.



VIA Volunteers for Coastal Clean Up 2017



These Gloves Are Too Big—Coastal Clean Up 2017

This annual clean-up is sponsored and organized by DNREC as a part of the annual International Coastal Cleanup. They supply the trash bags, gloves, and collection forms. The area covered was all of our beach, from one end of the Boardwalk to the other. The RBHA supplies the t-shirts! Please mark your calendars to sign up for Coastal Cleanup 2018 on the DNREC site next August and meet us at the same place—gazebo on Wilmington Avenue and the Boardwalk in September!

We would like to thank all of the volunteers, youngsters and oldsters for participating in this important annual event and especially for not complaining as they removed an abundance of sand and grass burs that attached to their shoes, socks, shorts and tops while cleaning up in the dunes!! A special thanks to the Village Improvement Association (VIA) who sent a small army to volunteer and thanks to Charlie Browne, President of the RBHA, and Board member Mark Saunders, who helped run this event.



The Results—Coastal Clean Up 2017



Volunteers for Coastal Clean Up 2017

Summary of Recent Board of Commissioners and Board of Adjustment Meetings

By Mark Saunders

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT: JUNE 5, 2017

CASE 1, REQUEST FOR VARIANCE: 110 Park Avenue

This is a request for a permanent variance to allow the present components, that are encroachments, be allowed to stay as is. It was pointed out that builder error resulted in these items being within the setback lines. Numerous neighbors signed a petition in favor of variance approval. The building inspector pointed out that some of these items were installed without city approval. The Board agreed to approve 5 items on a list of 11 items and denied the others.

In a separate vote, the board approved a reduced natural area of 43.4 %.

CASE 2, REQUEST FOR VARIANCE: 500 Stockley Street Extended

This is a series of six requests regarding the new elementary school being constructed by Cape Henlopen School District. These requests concerned height, roof pitch, signage, mechanical issues and natural area. Public comment was heard from 5 residents. Discussion was held, and the Board approved all 6 variance requests.

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT: JUNE 26, 2017

CASE 1, REQUEST FOR VARIANCE; 118 RODNEY STREET

Request to allow reconfiguration of an existing swimming pool and decking which would exceed the 50 % allowable gross lot coverage, and to encroach the rear set back line. The pool was installed in 1987, prior to FAR requirements. The proposal concerns the replacing and reconfiguration of the existing pool. A lengthy, in-depth discussion was held, with owners building giving a detailed presentation. Three emails from neighbors, all in support were read into record. Variance was approved unanimously on the condition that the pool be rebuilt on the same footprint as the original pool.

CASE 2, REQUEST FOR VARIANCE: 6 NORFOLK STREET

Request for variance to allow proposed front staircase to encroach 2.14 ft. into front yard setback. The owner testified that the existing steps are steep, and without a stoop at the top, thus being a safety issue. No public comment was received. The variance request was denied by a split decision, 3 for denial, and 2 for approval.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS: JUNE 16, 2017

NEW BUSINESS; The Board considered an ordinance amending the City Code related to converting some meters on Rehoboth Avenue to thirty-minute spaces. These meters would be subject to a fine after 30 minutes, and additional fines every 90 minutes thereafter. Commissioner Mills made a motion to approve the amendment which was seconded by Commissioner Kuhns. The motion passed unanimously.

Tax Rate: The budgeted tax rate for the upcoming year is \$.04 per \$100.00 of assessed value. This is the same as the current rate. On a motion by Commissioner Mills, seconded by Commissioner Sharp, the tax rate was approved unanimously by the Board.

Nominating Petitions for mayor and two commissioner seats were presented, and all approved by unanimous vote.

CITY MANAGER REPORT: Sharon Lynn reported that Beach Patrol has made contact with 134 individuals regarding tents and canopies during the busy week of July 5th thru July 11th. She then gave a brief update on City hall progress as well as an update report on the ocean outfall project.

CITIZEN COMMENT: A citizen voiced concern about trees being removed particularly power company work on city property. It was agreed the City Arborist will review the policies involving tree work.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS: JULY 21, 2017

REPORT OF FIRE COMPANY: John Meng reported 48 crew calls, 12 alarms, and 1 assist in June.

NEW BUSINESS: Wayne Steele, Steve Elkins and Melissa Clink were nominated and approved by unanimous vote to act as Election Inspectors and Judges.

City Manager Report: Sharon Lynn reported a lack of bids for the landscaping of the new City Hall, and bids will be readvertised. Parking revenue is up 3 % over this time last year.

Police Department reported there were 405 warnings and 6 citations involving tents and canopies on the beach within the last 7 weeks. The communication department reported that there have been more than 50 requests for interviews on the tent ordinance from media.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Formal recognition was made of the passing of Molly Murray who touched many through her writings and community involvement.

CITIZEN COMMENT: A citizen commented that the Planning Commission and the School Board are not working closely enough on the new school project.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS: AUGUST 18, 2017

REPORT OF FIRE COMPANY: John Meng reported 62 crew calls and 16 alarms in the month of July

OLD BUSINESS: Progress on the new City Hall was discussed. Several change orders were discussed and approved. Moving dates are now set, with a completion date of September 25th. An open house is planned for October 1, 2017 for the public to tour the new building from 1-4 pm.

A discussion was held concerning various wastewater projects. Also discussed was the progress in financing the waste water ocean outfall project. Three contractors have been notified of conditional approval to start.

NEW BUSINESS: Consideration was given to a contract to construct a curb and sidewalk along the extension of Third Street from Maryland Avenue to the rear of the convention center. The estimated cost is \$55,000. A motion was made and approved unanimously by the Board.

City Manager Report: Sharon Lynn reported that storm water sampling is now underway. A follow up report will be presented in the near future.

ANNOUNCEMENTS; Linda Kauffman, a local resident and parking expert, will make a presentation on parking on August 21, 2017, at 8:30 in the Fire Hall. Everyone is invited to attend.

The Annual RBHA Employee Appreciation Breakfast - 2017

By Jennifer Duncan

On October 11 the RBHA held their breakfast for the City employees on the second floor of the Fire Hall. 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.

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

Commissioners Lisa Schlosser, Patrick Gossett, Stan Mills and Kathy McGinnis were able to attend, and sit and chat with the employees. “Breakfast on Wheels,” was again carried to the various City employees so that those who could not attend could share the tasty goods.



The Annual RBHA Employee Appreciation Breakfast - 2017

By Jennifer Duncan



Back by popular demand, each employee received an envelope that either contained a \$20 dollar bill or \$1 or \$2 "scratch ticket" which brought extra smiles and laughter to the breakfast. In addition, eight employees went home with the 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 Charlie Browne, President, RBHA and Board member Steve Curson, and the Commissioners who could attend, for their help in making the breakfast a big success. *Until next year!*



Get a Tree for Your Property!

Few people would argue that the trees in Rehoboth Beach are part of the City's special character. As our Comprehensive Development Plan states, "Rehoboth is unique among all of the beach resorts on the East Coast because of its abundance of trees." So, a group of homeowners have gotten together and developed an initiative called Tree-Mendous Rehoboth to plant more!

As part of an ongoing effort to enhance the tree canopy for current and future generations, we are happy to announce that RBHA will be one of the sponsors of Tree-Mendous Rehoboth, with a goal to plant native Oaks and Maples on private property. Through fundraising efforts and private donations, homeowners like you will be given the chance to have a tree planted in your front yard at a greatly reduced price if you agree to water and maintain the tree. If your home is in Country Club Estates, the CCEPOA has generously offered to help cover part of the cost as well.



The goal of Tree-Mendous Rehoboth is to host up to two plantings per year, making use of the ideal planting times of April and November. The November 2017 program is full. **Special thanks go to our donors this year, Plant Retrievers, Brian Barry of Barry Realty Investments (a local builder and developer within the City), Kathryn W. Downs, MLA, Inc (local landscape architect) and Dr. and Mrs. W. James Downs, Jr. (local residents).**

For more information, and to find out how you can get on the list for the Spring 2018 planting season, send us an email at: info@rbhome.org.

RBHA Annual Picnic - by Steve Curson



RBHA Annual Picnic - by Steve Curson

On September 24th, RBHA held its annual Fall Picnic. Like last year, we gathered with friends and neighbors in Grove Park on a sunny Sunday afternoon. This year's event might have been the best attended one yet. We nearly ran out of seats for everyone!

RBHA provided all the food and beverages this year. The feast was served on beautiful tables decorated with pumpkins, gourds, and pineapples (that doubled as door prizes).

We started off with appetizers of cheese and crackers, and then moved on to Tomato Pies and eight different types of delicious sandwiches from Frank and Louie's. Luckily, most people left room for the delicious deserts also from Frank and Louie's.



Some of the special attendees this year were several of the past and present city officers; Stan Mills and his wife Marcia, Kathy McGuinness and several members of her family, Lorraine Zellers and husband Tom, and Sam Cooper and wife Diane.

We were especially happy to see our new Mayor, Paul Kuhns mixing with the members too.



City News Briefs

By Commissioner Stan Mills

Water Main Replacement Underway

Concurrent with the discharge pipe installation, Henlopen Avenue will be having 3,800 feet of aging water main pipes replaced. The result? New 8" non-corrosive PVC pipes instead of 4" iron pipes. Temporary road closures will occur that will be independent from closures due to the outfall project.

Stormwater Sampling Project

A study to evaluate existing stormwater quality and options for improving stormwater discharge volume and quality is underway. To facilitate this study water sampler machines have been strategically placed about the city at catch basins to collect stormwater samples when it rains so that water quality analyses can be performed.

Election Process Under the Microscope

The Commissioners are taking a look at various voting/election rules governed by the City Charter. Some of the topics up for discussion include whether or not to retain, change or drop a time requirement on purging registered voters who have not voted in two consecutive annual municipal elections, voter eligibility including whether or not to allow owners of properties held as LLCs to vote and more. A special town hall meeting to focus on this topic and to solicit feedback is being contemplated to be held in December. Please stay tuned.

New City Hall Open for Business

After closing for a week the City Hall offices housed for over a year in temporary trailers, the city was back in business in the new City Hall on Monday, September 25. On October 1, a ribbon cutting ceremony which included the reading of a proclamation citing October 1, 2017 as Samuel R. Cooper Day and which included the presentation of a key to the city to former Mayor Sam Cooper, led off a four-hour Open House with tours of the new City Hall. Approximately 400 persons attended and were able to tour the new facility including normally out-of-sight areas such as the administrative offices; police offices, lockers and criminal processing rooms; the Judges' Chambers and court room and new Commissioners' Room. Many visitors expressed delight at the art by locals hanging on the walls.

The parking lot on the east side of the convention hall and City Hall is torn up and still under construction. The parking lot on the west side of the building is renovated but is only for use of the police and city personnel – not the public. The east parking lot including a new pedestrian pathway to Baltimore Avenue is expected to open by the first of the year. In the meantime please park on a street or at the public parking lot next to the Senior Center when visiting City Hall.

City News Briefs

By Commissioner Stan Mills

Ocean Outfall Project Progresses

Multiple projects are in the works with the end goal of redirecting discharge of the city's highly treated effluent from the canal to a point over a mile from shore in the ocean. The projects visible to you and their impacts include:

A new 24" discharge pipe from the wastewater treatment plant, along State and Canal Streets and Henlopen Avenue. Temporary road closures will occur.

An extension to the above discharge pipe from Henlopen Avenue, to be placed under the dunes at Deauville Beach and approximately 6,000 feet into the ocean. The Deauville Parking lot is now closed for construction through March 2018. The tennis courts remain accessible via foot.

Financial Planning Reaches New Level

Following up on Commissioners' requests for planning financial needs farther ahead than on a yearly basis, city manager Sharon Lynn recently presented a new 5-year Capital Improvement Plan that identifies needs up to five years into the future, provides justification for inclusion of each capital need, identifies costs and identifies ways to fund each expenditure.

Committees Undergo Scrutiny

Mayor Kuhns has initiated a review of city committees and commissions. Analysis is ongoing but expect some committees to sunset and some new committees to sprout. Membership on committees is by appointment. For membership consideration please submit a committee application which can be found on the city website. Committee member or not, all committee meetings are open to the public.

Bicycle Loop. Yes, but...

Many of us are familiar with the bicycle loop trail wandering through our city, then traveling north through Cape Henlopen State Park, through Lewes, south along the Breakwater Trail and back into Rehoboth Beach over the canal bridge on Rehoboth Avenue. Or vice versa if you are inclined to ride clockwise. Either way it is the trail routing from the canal bridge to Henlopen Avenue (or from Henlopen Avenue to the canal bridge) that is giving some heartburn.

DelDOT has scrapped earlier designs putting the two-way traffic of bicycles and pedestrians on the same sidewalk from the canal bridge to Henlopen Avenue via Grove Street. Instead they recently presented new designs routing the trail along the canal bank at the Museum and Grove Park to get to Henlopen Avenue, with separate lanes for bicycles on the west-bound road shoulder of Rehoboth Avenue leaving the sidewalk for pedestrians. Hard to describe in words — see drawings on the city website. Go to cityofrehoboth.com, look for [Civic Web](#) right in the middle of the home page, then click [Document Center](#) at the top, go to [Current City Projects and Studies](#), [Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan](#).

Be Informed!

Via city web site www.cityofrehoboth.com – see "[Latest News](#)" on Home Page.

Via email – Go to "[Resident](#)" tab and look on the right side of the page for "[Stay Informed – Subscribe](#)." It is easy and free!

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



Rehoboth Beach Homeowners' Association Newsletter

**November
2017**

RBHA Calendar 2018

Saturday, December 30, 2017

9 AM Board Meeting
CAMP Rehoboth

Saturday, February 17

9 AM Board Meeting
CAMP Rehoboth

March
No Meeting

Saturday, April 21

10 AM General Membership Meeting
CAMP Rehoboth

Saturday, May 19

9 AM Board Meeting
CAMP Rehoboth

Saturday, June 16

9 AM Board Meeting
CAMP Rehoboth

Saturday, July 21

9 AM Board Meeting
CAMP Rehoboth

Friday, July 27
Candidate Forum
6:30 PM

CAMP Rehoboth

Saturday, September 1

9 AM Board Meeting
CAMP Rehoboth

Sunday, September 16

Noon
RBHA Picnic in Grove Park

Saturday, October 20

10 AM Annual Membership Meeting.
CAMP Rehoboth
RBHA Board Meeting
(to follow Annual Meeting)

November
No Meeting

Saturday, December 29

9 AM Board Meeting
CAMP Rehoboth

All meetings are open to the public. CAMP Rehoboth: 37 Baltimore.