

Rehoboth Beach Homeowners' Association

Incorporated 1971

April 2020

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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.

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RBHA

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Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971

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

Welcome to the RBHA Spring Newsletter for 2020. Although this newsletter is quite short, we wanted to get something out that will be helpful to our members. Commissioner Susan Gay, who writes our City News Briefs Column, gives members an update on what is happening in and around Rehoboth. It is our only article.

We are - and we are sure that you are - looking forward to returning to our beloved Rehoboth as quickly as things improve. As you know, Governor Carney closed the beaches in Delaware and banned short term rentals in the State until May 15. He has also requested that folks who live elsewhere stay away. The RBHA Board held its March and April meetings via teleconference

RBHA thanks everyone who renewed their membership for 2020. If you have not yet mailed in your renewal, please do so at your convenience. We are most fortunate that RBHA member Sharon Sherwood volunteered to help us and has been updating dues payments and donations and other changes that members sent. Our next mailing will reflect those updates. We would like to extend a big big thank you to Sharon for her wonderful assistance. An all volunteer organization like RBHA is only as effective as its member volunteers.

Speaking of volunteers, Clif Hilderley recently joined the RBHA Board. Clif is also our webmaster as well as our IT guru. If you have not visited the RBHA website recently, go to rbhome.org to find the latest updates and links on responses to Covid-19 in Rehoboth Beach and Delaware.

Each year RBHA has two meetings with guest speakers - one in the spring and one in the fall. The spring meeting was cancelled due to Covid-19. RBHA would like to thank the two individuals who had agreed to be our speakers - Dee Durham, Founder of Plastic Free Delaware and member of the New Castle County Council and our City Manager, Sharon Lynn. We would also like to thank Mayor Paul Kuhns for arranging for RBHA to hold its spring meeting in the Commissioners Room at City Hall. We plan invite both Dee and Sharon to speak at a future meeting. Depending on their schedules, we hope that can be at our fall meeting in October.

Take care and stay safe until we all see one another again at the beach.

Charlie Browne
RBHA President

Mark Saunders
RBHA President-Elect

City News Briefs

By Commissioner Susan Gay

On March 17, the City of Rehoboth Beach closed all public buildings through May 15 due to the COVID19 pandemic, including City Hall, Public Works buildings, all playgrounds, and public restrooms. Although our City parks remain open, all park goers should take extra precautions to stay healthy and safe. While solo exercise is okay, team sports are not permitted. Please maintain at least 6 feet of distance between yourself and others when outside and avoid congregating in groups.

The Convention Center is closed through May 15, and all permitted special events in the City have been cancelled through May 30. All public Commission and Committee meetings are suspended until further notice. However, city services are ongoing.

How to Conduct Business with the City Remotely

Full details of working with the City while it is closed can be found on the City website here: <https://www.cityofrehoboth.com/news/announcements/conducting-city-business-remotely>. Below are some highlights.

Building Permits

All minor permits (fences, interior renovations, etc) can be dropped off in the dropbox in front of City Hall or in the police department lobby. Inspections are still being performed as scheduled. A contractor or homeowner must be present for the inspection but please limit the number of people on-site. For more information, call 302-227-6181, ext 222.

Police Department and Public Works

The Police Department, and the Public Works Department, are responding to calls for service. Non-emergency dispatch number for both is 302-227-2577, and for emergencies, call 9-1-1. (See below for information on water turn on/off.)

Parking Permits

You can return your application with a copy of your current registration for non-transferrable permits through the mail or in the dropbox in front of City Hall. Your permits will be mailed to you. If you would like to purchase additional transferrable permits, you may do so by noting on the application how many you would like and including payment (\$250 per hangtag) with your application. For more information on residential permits, call 302-227-6181.



Anyone interested in purchasing a scooter parking permit can print and fill out an application and mail or drop off at the dropbox located in front of the Parking Department. Permits will be mailed to you. Application on city website: <https://www.cityofrehoboth.com/visitors/parking-information/scooter-parking>

Utility Billing

Water bills were recently sent out and are due in early May. You are encouraged to use the City's self-service portal for making utility bill payments. You can access it here: <https://rehobothbeachde.munisselfservice.com/citizens/>. Payments can also be made by mail or at the City Hall dropbox.

Water bill issues, turning on/off water and inspections will be addressed by the Water Department on a scaled-back level due to staggered staff work. Please call 302-227-6181 for more information.

Trash and Recycling Schedule Changes

Regular curbside collection of garbage will remain on a **one-day a week pickup schedule** (Monday's for the South Side and Tuesday's for the North Side including Schoolvue). This schedule will be in effect until further notice.

Regular curbside collection of recycling materials and yard waste will continue on schedule. Please visit www.cityofrehoboth.com/residents/trash-recycling for a trash collection calendar for the remainder of the year.

The Recycling Center (37540 Oyster House Road, Rehoboth Beach) is closed through May 15, 2020.

In order to best protect and limit the exposure to our employees and citizens, the City is **postponing the Annual Spring Bulk Pickup** (April 27-May 1 South Side, May 4-May 8 North Side including Schoolvue). A decision to reschedule will be made at a later date.

City News Briefs

By Commissioner Susan Gay

Budget Approved for FY2021

The Commissioners held one virtual meeting, on March 20, for the sole purpose of approving a \$26M budget for FY2021, which started April 1, 2020. The meeting was live-streamed, audio only, and is available on the City website here: <https://cityofreboth.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingInformation.aspx?Org=Cal&Id=882>

Due to the uncertainties brought on by the COVID19 pandemic, City Manager Sharon Lynn has earmarked about \$2M of the \$3M general fund capital improvement budget to be deferred until the fall. In addition, all purchase orders are scrutinized for necessary expenses only, and seasonal staff needs will be dependent on the timing of reopening the City to visitors. Below are the on-going projects.

Sewer Repair on Columbia Avenue

Crews began a sewer repair on Columbia Avenue on Wednesday, April 8. During this work, Columbia Avenue from Second Street to Surf Avenue will be restricted to one lane. Second Street from Park Avenue to Henlopen Avenue will be open to local traffic only.

Water Tower Maintenance

The Second Street water tower began undergoing routine maintenance on Thursday, April 16. Contractors will clean and paint the exterior of the tower. The entire process will not require the tower to be taken out of service so there will be no impact on water service in the City. The area around the water tower will be blocked off at all times. The work is expected to take two weeks to complete.

Sewer System Assessment

The City was awarded a matching Wastewater Planning Grant from the Department of Natural Resources to conduct sewer manhole field inspections and prepare an assessment action report on the City sewer system. This is in conjunction with the closed-circuit television (CCTV) sewer inspection work that is currently underway. Field data from sewer manholes located in three predetermined areas within the City limits will be collected. This work will not interrupt any services. You will see KCI marked vehicles and properly identified field staff walking from sewer manhole to manhole to collect the data and inspect the manholes. The majority of the sewer manholes are located within or to the side of the streets, and the placement of cones and vehicles will be utilized for the safety of the workers and community. The project began on Monday, April 6, 2020, and will go for approximately four weeks (weather permitting) and will be working Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Wayfinding Program

This project was funded out of the budget for the prior fiscal year and continues on schedule to be in place for summer 2020. The installation contractor has marked locations, coordinated with utilities, and provided drawings and vinyl samples. Merje Design is in the process of reviewing the materials for final approval by the City.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades

Commissioners will likely hold a virtual meeting in May to approve the contract for phase 3A of upgrades, which is the replacement of the three remaining mixers in the oxidation ditch. In addition, the main electrical duct bank along Roosevelt Street is being installed now (Phase 2A).

Canal Dock

Work has begun on the Grove Park Canal Access Project. Some funding is already in place from grants and the Lewes-Rehoboth Canal Improvement Association. Impact on the City's budget will need to be assessed as work progresses.

To all – Stay safe, be well, continue social distancing and hope for a joyful summer in Rehoboth Beach!

For the most up-to-date information on COVID19, please visit these websites.

State of DE dedicated website: <https://coronavirus.delaware.gov/>

City of Rehoboth Beach News: <https://www.cityofreboth.com/>

CDC for medical information: <https://www.cdc.gov/>

REHOBOTH BEACH
HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION
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REHOBOTH BEACH, DE 19971



Rehoboth Beach Homeowners' Association Newsletter

April 2020

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

(Membership Meeting cancelled)

10 AM Board Meeting

Friday, May 22

3 PM Board Meeting

Friday, June 12

3 PM Board Meeting

Friday, 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