





THE TOWN OF Fenwick Island Delaware

A quarterly newsletter for the residents and visitors of Fenwick Island.

FenwickIsland.org  

✓ Please Register to Vote.

Summer 2016

Fenwick Island Town Council

Gene Langan

MAYOR

Richard Mais

VICE MAYOR

Gardner Bunting

TREASURER

Diane Tingle

SECRETARY

Julie Lee

William Weistling

Roy Williams

Town of Fenwick Island

Merritt Burke, IV, MPA

TOWN MANAGER

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Important Dates

Town Council Meeting

4th Friday of Every Month -
Next meeting is on 7/22

Town Bonfire

July 3, Dagsboro Street

Fenwick Flicks on the Beach

July 12, 26 and August 9
Bayard Street @ Dusk

Bike Safety Check Point

July 19, Bunting Avenue and
Bayard Street, 8-10am

Town Election

August 6, Town Hall, 1-5pm

Budget Meeting

April 27 @ 1pm

The Town Hall will be CLOSED on the following dates:

- July 4 for Independence Day
- September 5 for Labor Day



Message from the Mayor

Welcome to Summer 2106. I wish everyone, residents and visitors, a safe and enjoyable summer in Fenwick Island. Please check the dates on the Town Website for the Town Bonfire and Fenwick Flicks on the beach. We hope to see everyone there.

There are some upcoming events that will invite citizen participation. First, a **Community Branding Workshop** will be presented by the Delaware Economic Development Office (DEDO) and the date will be announced on the Website. The purpose of this is to develop a cohesive

“Brand” for Fenwick Island, and the final product will include a new town logo, theme and tag line.

Secondly, the Planning Commission has been working on developing a **Comprehensive Plan** to be submitted to the State for approval in 2017. There will be several public workshops to obtain comments and ideas from our citizens.

The Town is happy to announce the launching of a **new town website**. The website was developed in conjunction with the Technology Committee, by the State of Delaware at no cost to the Town. I am sure you will find it more user friendly and it can be viewed on mobile devices. Please check it out at fenwickisland.delaware.gov.

- Mark your calendars:**
- August 6, 2016 – Town elections at Town Hall 1:00-5:00 PM.
 - June 30, 2016 – last date for walk-in voter registration
 - July 8, 2016 – last date for mail-in voter registration
 - June 22, 2106 – last date for filing for candidacy for upcoming elections

Have a happy and safe summer,
Mayor Gene Langan

FIPD: Summertime Safety

Welcome to the 2016 Summer season, with the warm days and time on our beaches and waterways comes the 2016 storm season. This time of year can yield storms that can include not just hurricanes but a tornado and a sudden violent thunderstorm.

Stay informed, listen to the television and radio, have a weather app on your smart phone for the latest information on bad weather conditions and what you should do. Know the difference between a watch and a warning: a watch means that the outside conditions favor the occurrence of a particular type of hazardous weather.

A warning means that hazardous weather has been spotted or is imminent in 30 to 60 minutes.

Create a family plan with a list of emergency contacts and a action plan

for you, your family and mostly what your children should do.

Have a disaster supply kit, this should include water , snacks a flashlight or battery powered lantern, a battery powered radio.

Listen to the authorities, when they say it is recommended to evacuate the area do so, it is better safe and secure than to be trapped and facing danger.

There is plenty of free information to help you be ready and safe for the storm season. We have many free handouts in the lobby of the Public Safety Building. You can also log onto web pages like :

- www.ready.gov
- www.dema.delaware.gov
- www.sussexcountyde.gov

This storm season is predicted to be more active than normal and being prepared is the smart and safe way to start your summer.

We also remind you to be mindful that with the increase of people comes the increase of being a victim of a crime. Lock your car and your home , unlocked doors only are a invitation to someone that wants that cell phone or laptop.

If your ride your bike make sure you have a bike lock when you park it at the beach or at the many great stores and eateries in town.

We also remind everyone that as in every summer season parking is limited and very regulated, get and use your permits and please know the rules. We all want to avoid getting that dreaded orange parking ticket on your windshield.

Please enjoy our town, our beaches, and all it offers but please be safe.

Thank you,
Chief William Boyden

Town Management

The Town of Fenwick Island is open for business! After one of the coldest spring seasons on record, the beach is finally open for summer recreation. Over the last four months, management and Council have completed several projects. First, the FY 2017 (FY17) Financial Plan was adopted on May 27. The FY17 Plan (operating and capital budgets) is \$2 million including a \$180,700 Capital Improvement Plan Budget. Second, Town Council approved a new website, fenwickisland.delaware.gov, which was revealed at the May 27 Council meeting. The new website is more user friendly with a crisp, clean design. Be sure to log on when you have time. Third, the FY 17 Fee Schedule was adopted with nominal increases to parking permit fees and hearing fees. The seasonal parking pass increased \$50 and the extra blue parking permit increased from \$75 to \$150. The annual Waste Administration Fee was reduced from \$299 to \$269 as well. Fourth, the municipal election is scheduled for Saturday, August 6 from 1 pm to 5 pm at Town Hall. Town Clerk Poole is coordinating voter registration. Lastly, the Town Hall renovation was completed before the season. New flooring and safety windows were installed to provide a more engaging customer experience.

For all those with children, or grandchildren, the F.I. Community Park located along Route 1 has two playgrounds for children ages 2-10. A DNREC grant allowed the Town to add a second climbing playground for older children and several benches for the parents.

Sincerely,

Merritt Burke IV, Town Manager

Public Works Department

Hello all! Welcome to the “unofficial” start of the summer season! Hopefully everyone had a great Memorial Day weekend. The Public Works Department has been very busy getting everything geared up and ready to go for summer. Lifeguard stands are completed and out, the flower beds next to the lifeguard sheds are weeded and mulched, and colorful as ever! Also, as you enter, or exit, the town from the north, everyone can see that we have weeded and put mulch in the flower bed around our “Welcome To Fenwick Island” sign. The new lighthouse pole lights are up for everyone to see! We are in the process of putting down mobi-mats on our dune crossovers, as DNREC is replacing the old snow fencing and removing sand built up in the walkways. The new shuffleboard mats are down in the community park for everyone to enjoy. If anyone has any questions about anything, feel free to stop on by or call Town Hall at (302)539-3011. Have a great summer and enjoy our wonderful beaches!

Sincerely,

Bryan A. Reed, Public Works Supervisor

The Environmental Committee

The FIEC is happy to announce the success of the First Annual Earth Day Town Clean-Up. Trash was removed from every street in Town. A big thanks goes out to everyone who participated in this event, and your hard work is appreciated by everyone.

The Committee is still working to eradicate Pine Wilt Disease in the black pine trees. For those of you who have removed the affected trees, we thank you, however, there are still some properties with dead and dying trees. Below is a letter drafted by the Committee that will be sent to those properties.

Dear Fenwick Island Property Owner,

As we highlighted in the 2016 Winter and Spring Editions of the Fenwick Island Newsletter, we are experiencing a rise in cases of Pine Wilt Disease in some of the black pine trees in town.

Pine Wilt is a dramatic disease because it usually kills the affected trees within a few weeks to a few months, and spreads from tree-to-tree in the Spring and Summer months. Unfortunately, there is no treatment or insecticide that will stop the progression of the disease.

Symptoms, such as rust colored needles, may first appear in one or a few branches, and then quickly develop throughout the tree. The infected tree seldom survives more than a year. Removal is the only method of preventing it from spreading throughout our town.

Sadly, one or more dead trees have been identified on your property, we are asking you to please remove the tree(s) as soon as possible to prevent further infestation to healthy trees.

It is important that the dead tree(s) be cut to ground level, but stump may remain. After the tree is removed it is important the wood be



DNREC approved floating wetlands to reduce water pollution on W. Dagsboro Street.

burned, buried or chipped. If you have already removed the dead tree(s), thank you very much and please disregard this letter.

Pine Wilt is not to be confused with the “salt burn” the trees experienced during the Nor’easter last October. If your trees look partially dead, i.e., brown needles on one side of the tree and green on the other side, this is not pine wilt and the tree should survive.

Although the black pines are a non-native specie they are very valuable to the town as ornamental trees. They provide protection during storms by anchoring the sand and reducing the amount of the blowing sands. They also provide shade and act as a buffer against noise.

As such, it is crucial that we protect our healthy trees by removing the diseased trees.

Fenwick Island has once again received a designation of Tree City USA and the Environmental Committee appreciates everything the residents are doing to insure that we maintain this status.

Your cooperation in this endeavor is vitally important to a healthy environment and we are grateful for your speedy response. Thank you so much for your dedication to the Town of Fenwick Island.

F.I. BEACH PATROL: Beach News

The FIBP commences full time coverage on June 10th extending to Labor Day 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. The town beaches will also be guarded the two weekends after Labor Day with modified coverage and hours.

Junior Lifeguard registration continues through the summer months with sessions available through the first week in August. Call the Town hall for more information.

Beach access is available via our beach vehicle or beach wheelchair for the elderly, handicapped, injured, or special circumstances. See the nearest lifeguard or call 302-462-6949.

The Annual Bonfire will be held on July 3rd with DJ, kid’s games, t shirt sales, and silent auction.

Spaces are still available for **advertising on lifeguard stands** - a great way to reach more people via the beach!