



THE TOWN OF Fenwick Island Delaware

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

FenwickIsland.delaware.gov  

Spring 2017

Fenwick Island Town Council

Gene Langan
MAYOR

Richard Mais
VICE MAYOR

Gardner Bunting
TREASURER

Bernie Merritt
SECRETARY

Vicki Carmean

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Roy Williams

Town of Fenwick Island

Terry Tieman, ICMA-CM
TOWN MANAGER

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Important Dates

Town Council Meeting
4th Friday of Every Month
Next meeting is on 4/28

Town Bonfire
July 8, Dagsboro Street

Fenwick Flicks on the Beach
July 11, 25 and August 8
Bayard Street @ Dusk

Junior Lifeguard Program
Six Sessions: June 27-29;
July 4-6; July 11-13; July 18-20;
July 25-27; Aug 1-3
Advanced LG Program: July 5-Aug 3

WORKSHOP
Final review of the
Comprehensive Plan Updates
May 20th @ 9:00 a.m.

Town Election
August 5, Town Hall 1-5pm

The Town Hall will be CLOSED on the following dates:

- Memorial Day: May 29
- Independence Day: July 4
- Labor Day: September 4



Give a warm welcome to our new Town Manager, Terry Tieman.

Message from the Mayor

We are happy to announce that Fenwick Island has hired Terry Tieman as Town Manager. Terry comes to us with 28 years of Delaware municipal government experience. The past 5 years Terry was employed as City Manager in Harrington, Delaware, and in 2015 she received the honor of "Town Manager of the Year" from the Delaware League of Local Governments. With her experience it has been a seamless transition. If you have the opportunity, please stop in and introduce yourself.

Spring is right around the corner and we are all looking forward to warm weather. We had to endure one more Nor'easter on March 14th. Once again our dunes held

and we had minimal flooding on the bayside.

The Town has been actively working with officials from the other coastal towns in restarting ACT (Association of Coastal Towns), with the goal of bringing attention to the unique problems faced by coastal towns, for example: pedestrian safety, beach replenishment, bay and channel dredging and water quality improvement of the bays.

FENWICK ISLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT: When Should I Call the Police?

We want to remind all residents and business owners how important it is to call the police for emergencies. The following is a guide for when to call 911 to report emergencies.

- You hear or witness a shooting
- An intruder is in your home
- Your or your neighbor's house is on fire
- You witness or are involved in a vehicle crash
- There is a crime in progress
- Someone becomes dangerously ill
- Someone is choking
- Someone is poisoned
- Someone is drowning
- You see a sparking electrical hazard
- Any threat of immediate danger

It is important that you call 911 in urgent emergency situations only. If you call 911 unnecessarily, or for a non-emergency, you might be tying up the communication operator's time while he or she could be providing assistance to someone who is in a life-threatening situation.

All of our officers carry a duty cell phone (302-542-8793) for non-emergency calls. There is also a non-emergency call number for Sussex County Radio Room (302-855-2980). If you would like to report any other town issues (road conditions, etc.) you should call the Town Hall or the Police Department during regular operating hours. The officers of the Police Department want you to be safe and enjoy your spring.

Mark your calendars:

June 21, 2017
Last date to file for candidacy for upcoming elections

June 30, 2017
Last date for walk-in voter registration

July 10, 2017
Last date for mail-in voter registration

August 5, 2017
Town Elections at the Town Hall
1pm - 5pm

From the Town Manager

Greetings from Fenwick Island! I am looking forward to my first summer season as your new Town Manager. I started my new position in late January and have met several of our citizens. I have been very impressed with the warm welcome I have received and the enthusiasm and commitment to community I have encountered here.

My door is always open. I place a high priority on open communication, integrity, ethics, safety and excellent service. I hope to meet even more of you as summer progresses. We have been working hard to get things ready for our summer season. Take note of some of the programs below and in the Public Works section of your newsletter. I'm looking forward to a safe and enjoyable summer!

This year the Chamber of Commerce has turned over the Fenwick Flicks program to the Town of Fenwick Island. Adults and children enjoy watching movies on the beach and we are asking for donations from residents and businesses to continue this fun. Any donation amount is greatly appreciated. Please contact town hall if you are interested.

Each year we ask for sponsorship of lifeguard signs to promote businesses in the area. The proceeds go to support and train our lifeguards. We have expanded the sponsorship area this year and have received a tremendous amount of response. We have several businesses who have sponsored a sign or two. Look for these advertisements on the lifeguard stands and support those who advertised! We still have spots available, please contact town hall to sign up.

Hurricane Season

Hurricane season in the Atlantic typically starts on June 1 and runs until late November, with the majority of storms striking over an eight-week period beginning in early August.

The 2016 season was the first above average year in the Atlantic basin since 2012, producing four tropical storms and two hurricane landfalls in the US. Another busy hurricane season may be on the way, according to an early assessment of climate patterns. This could mean we could see as many storms or more than those seen last season, the busiest in years, which saw 15 hurricanes and tropical storms.

How to prepare. Staying safe during the hurricane season starts with a simple step: Have a plan. People can plan for hurricanes using a simple guide at Ready.gov. Plans need to be worked out for all family members and pets.

This plan includes figuring out how to determine whether it's safe to hunker down at home during a storm, or whether you are in an evacuation zone. If told to evacuate, you should consider staying with family and friends, renting a motel room or staying in a shelter.

Family members often have trouble reaching each other during hurricanes, so having a predetermined meeting place and protocol can be helpful. Sometimes, local cellphone lines are overloaded during a storm, so consider texting.

During a storm, pets should be leashed or placed in a carrier, and their emergency supplies should include a list of their vaccinations as well as a photo in case they get lost, according to the Humane Society for the United States. Also important is finding someone who can care for them, in the event a hotel or shelter does not accept pets. During an emergency, they should also be wearing a collar with the information of an out-of-state contact in case they get separated from you, according to the HSUS.

Storm proof your home. Anyone who lives in a hurricane-prone area would do well to protect their property in advance of a flood. Because hurricanes often cause damage when trees fall on property, homeowners can reduce the risk of loss by trimming trees or removing damaged trees and limbs.

Another easy step is to make sure rain gutters are fixed in place and free of debris. Reinforcing the roof, doors and windows, including a garage door, is also important, according to Ready.gov.

Generators can be an important tool if the power is cut off for long periods. A power generator needs to be kept outside, as it produces dangerous levels of carbon monoxide.

Emergency supplies. People living in hurricane country also need to have a stash of emergency supplies, ideally placed in multiple locations throughout a dwelling. A basic disaster kit should include:

- A gallon of water per person per day for at least three days.
- A three-day supply of nonperishable food.
- A battery-powered or hand-crank radio.
- A flashlight with extra batteries.
- A first-aid kit.
- A whistle to get help.
- Dust masks.
- Moist towelettes, garbage cans and plastic ties for sanitation.
- A wrench or pliers for turning off busted pipes.
- Maps.
- Can opener for food.
- Cellphone chargers.

Public Works Department

Hello all! Warmer temperatures are here and you know what that means? Spring is just around the corner! With that being said, winter maintenance is in full swing. Public Works is working on bike racks and lifeguard stands to have ready for the upcoming summer season! We are building 2 more recycled lumber stands to put on the beach for 2017, as well as investigating replacing some older mobi-mats. If you haven't already done so, stop by Dagsboro St. beach end and check out the new demo mat from Mobi-mat. Let us know what you think about it, call Town Hall (302-539-3011 x3).

Please stop by Town Hall or visit the website: (www.fenwickisland.delaware.gov) to get your 2017 trash and recycling calendar.

Other points of interest include:

- Worked with the Barefoot Gardeners to install the Blue Star Memorial in the Community Park
- Constructed a bigger bike rack to hold more bicycles installed in the Community Park
- Revamping the rain garden areas in the parking lot of Town Hall
- Yard Waste collection for 2017 will begin in April, please bundle all branches per Town Code or use paper bags. Plastic bags are not allowed.

If anyone has any questions, comments or concerns, feel free to contact Bryan Reed, Public Works Supervisor by phone at: (302) 539-3011 x3 or email: BReed@fenwickisland.org

The Environmental Committee

The Environmental Committee of Fenwick Island extends our many thanks to those homeowners who voluntarily removed the dead and diseased trees from their property. As you may not know, some of Fenwick Island's Japanese Pine Trees have developed pine wilt which leaves them vulnerable to attack by beetles. There is no treatment or spray that will save the trees, they eventually will die. This disease spreads from tree to tree and the Environmental Committee hopes to eradicate this and save our pine trees. We are asking that everyone inspect their trees this spring and take action if they see evidence of the needles turning a rust color and small

holes being bored in the bark. In addition, we want to warn residents of scams being perpetrated by some tree service companies. If they tell you they can treat this disease and save the tree, please do not believe them. There is no treatment, only removal.

We are announcing our Second Annual Earth Day Town Clean-Up Day. Please join us on Earth Day Saturday April 22, 2017, from 9-11 am. In addition to the clean-up, there will be refreshments and commemorative giveaways for all participants, as well as, drawings for door prizes. Please join us in making Fenwick Island the cleanest town on the shore.

FENWICK ISLAND BEACH PATROL: Beach News

Captain Tim Ferry and the FIBP are looking forward to another excellent beach season. It may be hard to believe right now, but in just a few short months, summer will be here. Because many of our guards from last year are returning, we anticipate having another outstanding and experienced staff.

The FIBP will commence duty on Saturday, May 27, 2017, with coverage through Memorial Day weekend. Thereafter, the beach patrol will be on duty for the weekend of June 2 - 4 with full time coverage beginning on June 9th and extending through Labor Day (September 4th). Weekend coverage will resume the following two weekends, September 9th -10th and 16th - 17th. As usual, the daily hours of operation will be 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. through Labor Day.

The Junior Lifeguard Program will be offered again this season with weekly sessions during June, July and August. The Advanced Program will run for 5 weeks. More information is available on the Town website and registration begins April 1st. In addition, plan to stop by Town Hall in June for beach related brochures and coloring books about rip currents and water safety.

The FIBP will be assisting with the Town Bonfire again this year. Fundraiser T-Shirts and a 50/50 drawing and Silent Auction will be available as well as games and music for both kids and adults so keep the date of July 8th open! Proceeds will help offset the cost for the USLA National Lifeguard Championships that will be held in Daytona Beach, FL. For more information regarding tax-exempt donations that can be made on behalf of the FIBP, contact Captain Tim Ferry at tferry@fenwickisland.org.

Lifeguards will again provide access to the beach for patrons needing assistance using the beach wheelchair, ATV, and Side by Side.