



# THE TOWN OF Fenwick Island

Spring 2018 Newsletter

## FENWICK ISLAND TOWN COUNCIL

**Gene Langan**  
Mayor

**Richard Mais**  
Vice Mayor

**Gardner Bunting**  
Treasurer

**Bernie Merritt**  
Council Secretary

**Vicki Carmean**  
Council Member

**Julie Lee**  
Council Member

**Roy Williams**  
Council Member

## TOWN OF

## FENWICK ISLAND

**Terry Tieman, ICMA-CM**  
Town Manager

**Address**  
800 Coastal Highway  
Fenwick Island, DE 19944

**Phone**  
302-539-3011

**Fax**  
302-539-1305

**Police**  
302-539-2000

## IMPORTANT DATES

**March 23, 2018 @ 3:30 PM**  
Town Council Meeting

**March 30, 2018**  
Town Hall Closed

**March 31, 2018**  
Hazardous Waste Drop Off  
Fenwick Island State Park

**April 5, 2018 @ 10:30 AM**  
Finance Committee

**April 5, 2018 @ 1:30 PM**  
Dredging Committee

**April 5, 2018 @ 3:30 PM**  
Environmental Committee

**April 18, 2018 @ 9:00 AM**  
Business Development

**April 21, 2018**  
Earth Day Clean-Up  
Town Hall @ 9:00 AM

**April 27, 2018 @ 3:30 PM**  
Town Council Meeting

## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR...

Welcome Spring! Soon homeowners will be returning to open their cottages and making their summer plans. If you have any dead or diseased trees on your property, we are asking that you remove them as soon as possible to prevent the spread of pine wilt.

I want to make everyone aware we will be getting beach replenishment this summer. Unfortunately, it is scheduled to begin in July. Sadly, we have no power to delay or change this because Fenwick Island does not own the beach. It is owned by the State and the replenishment is being done by the Federal Government. We are not happy about this but we will deal with it and make every possible accommodation to meet our visitors and residents' needs. Our beaches will be open with closures on two streets per day. We will be communicating the daily closures on social media (on Facebook: Town of Fenwick Island – Government & on Twitter: IslandFenwick), our webpage ([www.fenwickisland.delaware.gov](http://www.fenwickisland.delaware.gov)), and the Town sign. We have no option but to deal with this and we will.

The Federal Government has decided to reverse the ban on seismic testing and drilling for oil and gas off the Atlantic coast. The Town Council, along with other shore towns, passed a resolution opposing offshore oil drilling and seismic testing. We are asking that everyone write to their legislators opposing this environmental change.

Let's have a safe and wonderful summer!

Mayor Gene Langan



Please join the members of the Environmental Committee on Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, as the Town celebrates Earth Day!

The day will begin at 9:00 AM at Town Hall, where volunteers will receive their clean-up assignment areas and supplies for trash pick-up.

All volunteers will also receive morning refreshments prior to the clean-up and can also register for door prizes.

Several organizations and vendors will be available with environmental displays.



The Town election is scheduled for August 4, 2018 from 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM at Town Hall.

There are 3 Council seats up for election. Each seat is for a 2-year term. Filing deadline for candidates is June 20, 2018 at 4:30 PM.

If you are not registered to vote, you can register at Town Hall by July 5, 2018.

If you plan to vote by absentee ballot, you must do so by 12:00 PM on August 3, 2018.

A link for more information in regards to elections and voting can be found on our website, [www.fenwickisland.delaware.gov](http://www.fenwickisland.delaware.gov), under "Government / Town Code and Charter", or by calling Town Hall at 302-539-3011.

## FROM THE TOWN MANAGER...

Summer is around the corner, and the Town is ready for another busy season! This year, the Town will be celebrating its 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

A parking kiosk will be installed in front of the Public Safety Building in the next few months. Daily, weekly, monthly, and summer permits will be available at the kiosk via cash or credit card. You can still obtain a permit if you prefer at the Public Safety Building between the hours of 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM, Monday-Friday. As a reminder, parking permits are required from May 15 - September 15.

The lifeguard stand advertising sponsorship began this month. Advertising spots are still available, so if you have a business and are interested in advertising, contact Town Hall at 302-539-3011.

For updates on meetings, events, and special announcements, please visit our website, [www.fenwickisland.delaware.gov](http://www.fenwickisland.delaware.gov), or "like" our Facebook page, [Town of Fenwick Island - Government](https://www.facebook.com/TownofFenwickIsland-Government). Best wishes for an enjoyable spring and summer!

Town Manager Terry Tieman



The winter is behind us and we all survived another season. The Fenwick Island Police Department would like to share with you a few tips on how to keep your property safe and to minimize your chance of being a victim of a burglary:

- ✓ Give your home a lived-in look to deter burglars. Inexpensive timers set to turn on lights in different rooms at different times usually work the best.
- ✓ Close drapes and shades so that it would be impossible to detect interior motion from the outside, especially in high traffic areas such as the front room and kitchen.
- ✓ Purchase a security system – new technology has lowered the cost and some systems can be installed by the homeowner and are wireless ([www.simplisafe.com](http://www.simplisafe.com)).
- ✓ Secure all windows and doors and use good quality dead bolt locks on doors.
- ✓ Get to know your neighbors and let them know when you are leaving town so they can keep an eye on your property.
- ✓ Never open your door to anyone that you cannot identify or verify their identity.
- ✓ Do not wear expensive jewelry out in everyday situations (do not “advertise”). Someone might spot you in a store and follow you to find out where you live.
- ✓ If you notice someone walking around your street wearing a uniform, overalls, or work clothes, and they look out of place, do not hesitate to call the Police. Many burglars will research prospective victims and streets before they break in.
- ✓ Remember: “If you see something, say something”. Our officers work 24/7. For non-emergency calls they can be reached on the officer on duty cell phone #: 302-542-8793. For emergency calls, please dial 911.

Have a safe spring!

William H. Boyden  
Chief of Police

### Charter & Ordinance

Over the last year, the Charter & Ordinance Committee and Town Council have been quite busy with various amendments to the Town Charter and Code.

You will find that the Charter has been amended to better define a resident in Section 9 under “Voter Qualifications”, and in Section 34 the Charter has been amended to increase short-term borrowing to 5% of the total assessed value of all non-tax-exempt real property within Town limits. These Charter changes will become effective after approval by the Delaware General Assembly.

Chapter 52 (Beaches) was amended to include new definitions of a beach tent and umbrellas, and restrictions on their use on the beach.

An amendment to both Chapter 52 (Beaches) and Chapter 116 (Peace and Good Order) expanded the ban on smoking to not only prohibit cigarettes, cigars and pipes but also other products that contain tobacco, herbs, weeds, marijuana, e-cigarettes, and vaporizers.

An amendment to Chapter 116 (Peace and Good Order) also added a definition of “Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)/Drones” and operations of such shall follow FAA and Delaware regulations.

In an effort to provide expanded wireless technology throughout Town, Chapter 61 (Building and Utility Construction) added a new Article IV regarding “Wireless Infrastructure Construction”.

Finally, amendments to Chapter 160 (Zoning) included new definitions such as “Commercial Cell Phone Communications Facilities”, “Mechanical Equipment”, “Business”, “Improved Lot”, “Primary Building”, and “Primary Structure” in support of commercial, residential and parks area regulations and parking.

You can view the Town Code, including these changes, on the Town’s website.

### PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Hello Fenwick Island homeowners and visitors!

It’s beginning to look as if spring is here, even though it’s only the beginning of March! Hopefully everyone made out o.k. with “Snowmageddon 2018”! Now that temperatures are beginning to warm up a bit, remember to check all your exterior pipes to make sure no cracks or breaks have occurred. Also, remember as you open up your home or just do some spring cleaning, trash pickup is on Monday’s and recycling is every other Friday. The Town refuse 2018 calendar is now available at Town Hall, or on our website, [www.fenwickisland.delaware.gov](http://www.fenwickisland.delaware.gov).

Public Works has begun cleaning up the median beds, trimming bushes, and weeding. Mulching will be starting soon to spruce the landscape beds up! Lifeguard stand work is also in progress to get everything ready for the upcoming beach season. Bike racks have been worked on and completed. Beach end maintenance is going on: spreading millings in the parking areas, pushing beach sand up, and trimming branches. Public Works has also rebuilt the landscape beds next to the lifeguard sheds on Bayard and Essex beach end streets.

Here are a couple of reminders for everyone:

- Yard waste pickups will start back up in April, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month.
- On March 31<sup>st</sup>, DSWA will be having a hazardous waste, electronic goods, and paper shredding event to be held at the Fenwick Island State Park. If you have any questions regarding what can and can’t be dropped off, please contact Public Works at 302-539-3011 or by cell at 302-462-6989.

Congratulations to Public Works employee James “Jimmy” Purnell, as he recently celebrated his 10 year anniversary with the Town.

Also, welcome to the newest member to the Public Works crew, John Farrace, who began working in October and has done a great job so far.

Hope to see everyone soon and please remember, if you have any questions, comments, or concerns, feel free to contact Public Works at 302-539-3011 or Supervisor Bryan Reed at 302-462-6989.

### FENWICK ISLAND BEACH PATROL 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 excellent and experienced staff.

The FIBP will commence duty on Saturday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, with coverage through Memorial Day weekend. Thereafter, the beach patrol will be on duty for the weekend of June 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> with full-time coverage beginning on June 8<sup>th</sup> and extending through Labor Day (September 3<sup>rd</sup>). Weekend coverage will resume the following two weekends, September 8-9 and 15-16. As usual, the daily hours of operation will be 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM 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’s website. 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 in July (date to be announced). Fundraiser t-shirts and a 50/50 drawing will be available as well as games and music for both kids and adults! T-shirts will be available for purchase beginning in June. Proceeds will help offset the cost for the USLA National Lifeguard Championship that will be held in Virginia Beach, VA.

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

\*Important Note\*: Beach Replenishment will tentatively commence in July but will not affect the Junior Lifeguard Program or Beach Assistance service. Daily information regarding beach closures and updates on progress of the project will be available on the Town’s website, Facebook page, and Twitter feed.

### Oyster Gardening Program

The Delaware Center for the Inland Bays is seeking waterfront property owners to participate in its Oyster Gardening Program. Participants volunteer to help raise and maintain juvenile oysters in cages hung from their docks or bulkheads. The Center provides the oyster spat, all required gear, and training. Center staff collect the oysters from participants when they reach “seed” size after six months to a year, and they are then used in restoration projects such as living shorelines throughout the Inland Bays. The Oyster Gardening oysters are not grown for food and are not suitable for human consumption.

The goal of the Oyster Gardening Program is to improve water quality and to help restore a sustainable population of native oysters in the Inland Bays. A single adult oyster can filter up to 50 gallons of water per day, removing excess nutrients and algae that contribute to murky waters and low oxygen levels. The cages of oysters also provide excellent habitat for other marine species, such as fish, crabs, and shrimp.

Waterfront property owners with the ability to lift approximately 25 lbs. out of the water are eligible to participate. The Center also requires oyster gardeners to have an email address and to grant center staff access to the gear during normal business hours.

If you would like to be considered for the Oyster Gardening Program, call the Center’s office at 302-226-8105, or contact the Program Manager at [jamesfarm@inlandbays.org](mailto:jamesfarm@inlandbays.org).

The Center for the Inland Bays is a non-profit organization established in 1994, and is one of 28 National Estuary Programs. With its many partners, the CIB works to preserve, protect and restore Delaware’s Inland Bays – the water that flows into them, and the watershed around them.

