



# THE TOWN OF Fenwick Island

Spring 2020 Newsletter

## FENWICK ISLAND TOWN COUNCIL

**Gene Langan**  
Mayor

**Richard Mais**  
Vice Mayor

**Gardner Bunting**  
Treasurer

**Bernie Merritt**  
Council Secretary

**Vicki Carmean**  
Council Member

**Mike Houser**  
Council Member

**Bill Weistling**  
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

**June 17th:**  
Candidate Filing Deadline  
for August 1, 2020 Election

**July 1st:**  
Voter Registration  
Deadline

**July 5th:**  
Annual Town Bonfire

## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR...

As we go through these trying days, we ask the Fenwick Island community to cooperate and support Governor's Carney's emergency declarations. As difficult as this is, it is essential that we come together (practicing social distance) and take care of our families and neighbors. Our lives literally depend upon your cooperation.

We have been asked to stay in place until May 15<sup>th</sup>, except for doctor appointments and essential shopping. And the beach has been closed until May 15<sup>th</sup>.

In the meantime, please wash your hands frequently, practice social distancing, cover your mouth when coughing and sneezing, and avoid congregating in groups.

Eventually we will get back to normal but in the meanwhile let's keep working together for the health and safety of our Town.

Thank you,  
Mayor Gene Langan



As a safety precaution due to COVID-19, all residential parking passes are being mailed out this year (for those that have not already picked up their passes). As in past years, each property on record with the Town will receive 1 hang tag and 2 parking stickers.

If you have not received your parking pass, please contact Town Hall at 302-539-3011. The parking pass number that was originally mailed to you will then be listed as a voided number and a new parking pass will be issued to you. Be aware: the voided number list will then be given to the Police Department for issuance of parking violations if any of those numbers are then used!

Why did we decide to close the beach entirely? The safety of our residents, visitors, and businesses is our top priority. Although you can't walk along the beach, the streets are still open, so go out and get some fresh air! We know it is hard to be quarantined at home, but here are a few tips to get you through:

- \* **Keep your body active at home.** Do a home workout or yoga, go for a walk or run, or even dance to some music!
- \* **Keep your brain active.** Read a book or newspaper, do a word or number puzzle, go online and learn a language or take an online class, tune into a new TV or radio show, or try meditation.
- \* **Call your friends and family** and catch up. We are all going through this together!
- \* **Completing tasks at home.** Now is the time to tackle your "honey do" list. No list? Make a to-do list. Clean or tidy up (now is an excellent time to start your Spring cleaning!). Go outside and do some yard work.
- \* **Get creative at home.** Start an art project, play an instrument, pick up a new hobby, try a DIY project, or make a new recipe or even come up with your own!

**SAFETY  
NOW.  
SAND  
LATER.**

**Beaches are closed.**  
Individuals must follow  
social distancing – 6 to 10  
feet from others.

The 5th Annual Earth Day Clean-Up  
Event has been postponed. A new  
date will be announced soon!



**Fenwick  
Island  
CELEBRATES**





## **Keep Your Home Safe While Away**

While you're away from home, make sure your personal property doesn't end up in the hands of a burglar. Protecting your home can be as easy as making it look occupied while you're gone.

Here are some simple measures you can take that can pay off in security and in peace of mind:

- ⇒ Leave drapes and shades open. If closed, it's a sign you're gone,
- ⇒ Don't stop all deliveries. Have someone you trust pick up mail and newspapers every day.
- ⇒ Leave a radio on. It signals to a burglar that someone's home. Also, turn the volume adjustment on your telephone ringer down so a prowler will be less likely to hear the ringing of an unanswered call.
- ⇒ Use automatic light timers. Set them to turn lights on and off in different rooms at different times.
- ⇒ Park a car in your driveway or parking space. If you plan to be gone for just a few days, park your second car in the driveway or space, or ask a neighbor to park a car there. This not only gives the impression you're home but also stops burglars from backing up a van and loading your possessions.



- \* **FACT:** Floods are the nation's most common and costly natural disaster and cause millions of dollars in damage every year. Floods cost America, on average, **\$8.2 billion** each year. Recovering from just one inch of water inside your building can cost about \$27,000.
- \* **FACT:** Homeowners and renters insurance do not typically cover flood damage.
- \* **FACT:** Floods can happen everywhere—more than 20% of flood claims come from properties outside the high risk flood zone.
- \* **FACT:** Flood insurance can pay regardless of whether or not there is a Presidential Disaster Declaration.
- \* **FACT:** Most federal disaster assistance comes in the form of low-interest disaster loans from U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and you have to pay them back. FEMA offers disaster grants that don't need to be paid back, but this amount is often much less than what is needed to recover. A claim against your flood insurance policy could and often does provide more funds for recovery than those you could qualify for from FEMA or the SBA—and you don't have to pay the money back.
- \* **FACT:** You may be required to have flood insurance. Congress has mandated federally regulated or insured lenders to require flood insurance on mortgaged properties that are located in areas at high risk of flooding. But even if your property is not in a high risk flood area, your mortgage lender may still require you to have flood insurance.

## **WHAT'S GOING ON?**

### **Updates on hot topics in and around the Town of Fenwick Island!**

#### Skipjack Windfarm Project & State Park Project

After the request by the Town, an informational workshop was held at the Indian River High School on November 19, 2019 in regards to the plans for the project.

At the December 6, 2019 Town Council Meeting, the Council passed a resolution in regards to opposition against the current project plans.

Nothing has been heard from neither DNREC or Ørsted since November in regards to the project.

#### Commercial District Planning

The Commercial District Design Guidelines have been finalized. They will be presented to the Town Council and the public for input in the next few months.

#### Community Sustainability Plan

The Community Sustainability Plan was approved by the State in November 2019. The Town, in conjunction with the Environmental Committee, will start addressing back bay flooding, which was the highest concern to residents who took the Community Sustainability Survey last Spring.

#### Pedestrian Safety

Five blocks of sidewalk (from James Street to Essex Street) is scheduled to be installed hopefully this fall on the bay side. Crosswalk signs are also being installed at all crosswalks in Town, with lighted signs at the two busiest crosswalks: Bayard Street & Oyster Bay Drive.

#### Dredging of the Little Assawoman Bay

Engineers are working on plans & permits for the project.

### **FENWICK ISLAND BEACH PATROL**

It has been a productive few months for the Fenwick Island Beach Patrol (FIBP)! We have many applications for the few open spots on our patrol. We are in a good position to start the 2020 summer season with a full patrol. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have only completed two of our four tryouts. However, we will finish the hiring process when we are no longer under State restrictions.

I have been in contact with the returning FIBP staff and all are excited for summer to arrive and to get back on the sand in Fenwick Island!

Captain "Ryk" Rykaczewski

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Town of Fenwick Island - Government  
@TownofFenwickIsland

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@IslandFenwick

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<https://fenwickisland.delaware.gov/>