

City of Seaford News



Issue Number 10 | April | 2016

City Election Day - April 16; Be Sure To Vote!

Two City residents have filed for the one (1) available position on Seaford's City Council. The candidates for the three-year council term are:

- **Frank Daniel Cannon, Jr.**
(302) 228-3446
- **Leanne Phillips-Lowe***
(302) 629-9374



The City of Seaford 2016 Municipal Election will be held on Saturday, April 16 in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, 414 High Street, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. E.D.S.T. and 3:00 p.m. E.D.S.T.

If you have any questions or would like more information about or from the candidates, contact them at the numbers given above.

A non-resident property owner to be eligible to vote must be the owner of record for a period of six (6) months immediately preceding the date of the Annual Municipal Election (October 16, 2015) and shall have one vote provided he or she is registered on the "Books of Registered Voters" maintained at the City Hall.

The City of Seaford has independent registration procedures for the Annual Municipal Election. (Registering for a state or federal election does not automatically register you to vote in the City of Seaford elections.) To vote, you must meet the eligibility requirements and be registered on the "Books of Registered Voters" maintained at City Hall.

All voters will need to show proof of residency which may be a State of Delaware driver's license, a federal or state tax return with a City of Seaford address, a City of Seaford utility bill or real estate property tax bill, or a City of Seaford acceptable proof of residency or ownership.

If you will be out of town or unable to come to City Hall to vote on April 16, please contact City Hall at 302-629-9173 for information about absentee voting. The ballot must be returned to City Hall by April 15, 2016.

*Incumbent

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A message from the desk of Mayor David Genshaw

Thank you for your interest in Seaford, and I hope this newsletter builds your excitement about what is going on in our city.

Spring is my favorite time of year! Two reasons why:

(1) I love and appreciate how the members of Seaford's Spade and Trowel Club beautify our City with flowers. Their efforts add a special touch for everyone to enjoy!

(2) Employees of the City's Parks Department take pride in having all the recreation areas attractive and ready to go for spring sports and walkers. Take advantage of and enjoy these wonderful open spaces in our city.

If you have not seen the Conceptual Vision Plan for Seaford's downtown area, I would encourage you to take a look at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XHqcnMzM7RQ>

Several events return in spring which will offer you the opportunity to walk downtown and see the possibilities - 1st Saturday on May 7 and Live for Chocolate on May 6. A leisurely stroll will enable you to visit one of our local churches, restaurants, the shops/businesses or the Seaford Museum. Allow yourself some time to experience the beauty of the fountain at Gateway Park, a stroll along the river walk, or check out the progress at The Residences at Riverplace. Come and see what everyone is talking about!

It truly is a privilege to serve you and our community as an elected official. Thank you! Remember, City elections will take place on Saturday, April 16 from 7 a.m.-3 p.m. (a new time frame this year) at City Hall on High Street.



David Genshaw



1st Saturday will begin on May 7, 2016 and run through December 3, 2016. We have "Charlie and the Arthritics", Charles Papparella as our entertainment in May. It will take place at the corner lot on High & Spring Streets (the former Burton Bros. Hardware).

TS Smith will return with seasonal produce for sale. Come out and join us in Downtown Seaford for a great time.!

“Light It Up Blue” For Autism Awareness; City to Host Walk and Lighting Ceremony

JustUS & Friends Band - Friday, April 8

5:30 p.m. at Gateway Park, Seaford

“Light It Up Blue” Ceremony - Friday, April 8

6:30 p.m. at Gateway Park, Seaford

The month of April is Autism Awareness month. Join us on April 8th in Gateway Park as we Light It Up Blue! JustUS & Friends, a local band with the primary goal of promoting Autism Awareness, along with other disabilities, will play at 5:30 p.m. The official ceremony and lighting event will begin at 6:30 p.m.

We support Autism Speaks with “Light It Up Blue,” a campaign designed to color the world blue in an effort to increase awareness of the challenges faced by people with autism. Awareness is the key to funding research for a cure and helping develop treatments that provide opportunities for people with autism to thrive in this world. Even more importantly, awareness leads to the acceptance of people with autism and their differences. Given that one in 68 children is now being diagnosed with autism, just imagine how many community members have children, family members, or close friends who are affected!

Our Delaware “Light It Up Blue” committee is successful in lighting up schools, University of Delaware, Legislative Hall, Nanticoke Memorial Hospital, City of Seaford, Seaford School District, Gallery 107, St. John’s Church; Soroptimist Club’s Your Sister’s Closet, Nanticoke Automotive, Penco’s Elegant Designs, Hertrich Family of Dealerships, Sweet Serenity, and other local businesses.

We hope other local businesses will support our awareness efforts and join us in lighting their facilities and windows blue during the month of April.

Thanks for helping us shine a light on Autism. For more information, visit autismspeaks.org/LIUB, Autism Delaware or contact Carlyle and Marcia Windley, cw20@comcast.net or mlwindley@comcast.net



Seaford Community Swim Center

Normal Summer Hours

Monday - Friday

11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Saturday, Sunday

10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

The pool will open on Saturday, May 27.

Membership and swim team forms are available on the City of Seaford SCSC Web site:

www.seafordde.com/scsc/

Remember: Swim lessons will be given throughout the swim season at the Seaford Community Swim Center; lessons are open to ALL regardless of membership.



Recreation Dept.
Upcoming
Programs

Flag Football
sign-up will begin
in May with the
season starting in
early September.
The cost is \$40.00

Youth tennis
clinic/camp will
start in June for
ages 8-12

Contact the
Recreation Office
at 302-629-6809,
and check us out
on Facebook for
more information.

National Telecommunications Week

National Telecommunications Week will be held from April 10-16. Our nation honors those who answer 911 calls, dispatch first responders, and handle other emergency communications tasks. The week offers dispatchers the opportunity to take credit for the critical work they perform and for communities to recognize the specialized skills that dispatchers provide. Seaford's 911 Communications Center handles thousands of calls each year.



Thank you to our dispatchers for their service and the job they do for our community!

Senior Citizen Tax Exemption

Are you a senior citizen, 65 years or older before July 1, 2015 who owns property in our City? Have you owned the property for at least 10 years? Is this your place of residence? Is your income, other than Social Security, less than \$13,000 as a married couple or less than \$9,000 as a single person? Then you may be eligible for a senior citizen exemption on your property taxes.

Those who qualify are required to re-apply each year. The 10-year residency requirement is waived for those who qualified for the exemption prior to 2008.

Applications will be sent out in April to the seniors who are currently noted in our records as exempt and will be available at www.seafordde.com and at City Hall after April 4.

In an effort to promote the local economy and better familiarize our community with its businesses, the City wants to recognize newly established businesses and highlight significant accomplishments and accolades of its existing businesses.

Has your business been recognized in some way or is it expanding? Then we would like to put it in the "spotlight!"

Information can be sent to the City's Economic Development Manager Trisha Newcomer at: tbooth@seafordde.com.



YOU have OPTIONS to pay your City Bill!

Did you know the City accepts the following forms of payment?

- Cash
- Check or Money Order
- Automated Bank Draft – will be processed on the 1st business day of the month. Forms to arrange for this option are available at the City Hall office.
- Online Payments via the City’s Web site – Credit/Debit Card or Electronic Check. A convenience fee applies. Payments scheduled by 11:59 p.m. on that day will be processed as of the next business day. Visit our Web site at www.seafordde.com.
- Online Payments (Customer’s Bank) – A customer may set up payments through his/her bank’s online payment system. Even though the customer is not physically writing a check, the bank is writing and mailing a check to the City of Seaford. **This form of payment requires additional processing time because it is NOT automatic or “electronic.”** If the customer schedules the payment as of the 5th of the month, the City may not receive it for several days after that date because it is being sent via the U.S. mail service.

E-Bills Available

Would you like to have your utility bill information available at your fingertips with a click of a button? Sign up for E-Bills today! Call City Hall at 302.629.9173 or email your request to jsapp@seafordde.com.

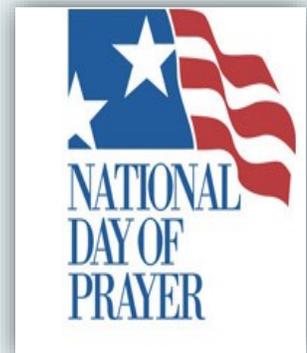
For more information about our billing or payment options, please contact Customer Service at 302.629.9173.



National Day Of Prayer

Join us on
Thursday, May 5
from 12:20 to
12:40 p.m. to
celebrate
“National Day of
Prayer.”

The program will
take place on the
steps of City Hall,
414 High Street.
We hope to see
you there!



FREE TO THE PUBLIC!

Friday - May 6, 2016

5:00 to 8:30 PM
Downtown Seaford

3rd Annual

**LIVE for
CHOCOLATE**

A Night of Fun, Laughter and Support -
Promoting Women's Health in Sussex County

Nanticoke is again partnering with the Greater Seaford Chamber of Commerce and the City of Seaford to promote women's health awareness through Live for Chocolate, a night of fun, laughter and support. The event will be held in downtown Seaford and will include food, wine tasting, games, education, shopping, music and more. The evening will feature a scavenger hunt with chocolate treats at every stop!

More than 15 downtown businesses along with many of your favorite vendors from last year will be partnering for a great night. Games, prizes and fun activities will be located throughout downtown shops and just across the bridge in Blades.

Mark your calendar! Tell your friends!

For more information go to www.nanticoke.org/liveforchocolate or call 302-536-5386.

Co-Hosted By:



Sponsored By:



DELMARVA BROADCASTING COMPANY

Prepare For Clean Up Week

May 9-13

Annually, the City of Seaford schedules a clean-up week in order to improve the appearance of the City. During this week, Public Works will haul away unwanted materials at no charge for **CITY RESIDENTS ONLY!!**

A City Resident is defined as anyone who receives utility services from the City of Seaford.
(i.e., Electric, Water or Sewer)

HEAVY MATERIALS: Stoves, furniture, cement pipe, etc. will be collected separately as special equipment may be needed.

WEIGHT LIMITS: When filled, bags and containers shall not weigh more than 50 lbs.

CONTAINERS: Please use disposable containers as they will not be returned.

PLACEMENT: All materials to be picked up must be placed on the curb line no later than 8:30 a.m. on the day scheduled for your area's pick up. Our employees are not permitted to go on private property. Once a street has been cleared, the trucks WILL NOT RETURN.

PRIVATE CONTRACT WORK: Debris from any work done by a private contractor (cutting trees, construction, etc.) is the responsibility of the contractor. Do not place on curb line for the City to remove.



- Do not place leaves, limbs, twigs or grass clippings on the curb line during clean-up week. Normal pickup of these items will resume the week after Clean-Up Week.
- No household garbage, paints or hazardous chemicals will be picked up. Call Delaware Solid Waste Authority for proper disposal of household hazardous waste: 800-904-7080
- No freezers, refrigerators, air conditioners or other appliances which contain, or may have contained, Freon will be picked up.

Pick-Up Schedule

Monday, May 9:	East of Front Street, Mearfield
Tuesday, May 10:	Front St., to the RR track, Including Virginia Commons, Wilmar Village & Hurley Heights
Wednesday, May 11:	RR tracks to Nylon Blvd.
Thursday, May 12:	Martin Farms, Westview and Parsons Village
Friday, May 13:	Woodside Manor, Belle Ayre, Governor's Grant

Call Delaware Solid Waste Authority for proper disposal of household hazardous waste at 800-404-7080.

What To Do:



Please Remember Clean-Up Week is Only for Residents Within the Corporate Limits of Seaford!

The City of Seaford Celebrates 2016 Earth Day with a Tree Raffle

The City of Seaford proudly announces the 4th Annual Earth Day Tree Raffle.

Earth Day was founded in 1970 to demonstrate support for environmental protection. Demonstrate your support by entering to win a free, energy saving, shade tree for your home or business. Shade trees naturally provide a welcoming spot to cool down during hot summer days. When shade trees are properly located and planted they can reduce home and business energy costs by reducing the need for summer air conditioning. The savings associated with trees doesn't stop with summer. In the winter, trees lose their leaves which allows the sun to warm up homes and business, reducing heating needs and lowering heating costs.

The 2016 Earth Day Tree Raffle is part of the City of Seaford's Earth Day Education campaign to teach its citizens more about energy efficiency and conservation. Seaford has provided a display at its City Hall office for the public to learn more about this year's overall message: **Think Locally, Act Locally, and Buy Locally** to benefit health and quality of life while saving money.

Thinking Locally – Means asking ourselves to think about:

- The uniqueness of our community
- How we sometimes waste our limited resources
- How to use resources more sustainably to retain the natural beauty of the local environment

Acting Locally – Means taking action to help ourselves and our community:

- Save money on electricity costs through simple low and no cost energy efficiency measures
- Better understand how energy efficiency and conservation help reduce local carbon emissions
- Take direct personal action by entering a raffle to win a tree that not only absorbs carbon but also reduces summer cooling costs through free shading

Buying Locally – Means we should seek local resources first because:

- Imported food typically travels farther and requires more fuel to get from field to plate
- Local trips can sometimes be handled on foot or bike which reduces vehicle miles traveled and saves energy
- Reducing the amount of congestion on the roads can improve local air quality

To learn more about how to save energy, visit the Delaware Municipal Electric Corporation (DEMEC) website www.demecinc.net

Water, Sewer or Electric Problems After Hours? Now What?

Did you know that the City of Seaford has an after-hours emergency number for all water, sewer and electric issues?

This after-hours emergency line is monitored by our communications center when the City's offices are not open. You won't be greeted by a recorded message; a live call taker will answer and have someone from the appropriate department call you direct or respond to the location of the issue.

For after-hours concerns, please call 302-629-4550.

Meet the Administration Department

The City of Seaford's Administration department consists of several different divisions including customer service, property tax and utility billing, collections, human resources, accounting, and administrative duties. The department is currently serviced by six cross-trained, full-time employees, and managed by the Director of Finance and Human Resources. Four employees hold a bachelor's degree or higher in a business-related field of study.

Our Customer Service Representatives receive payments on customer's accounts, prepare daily deposits, assist customers with account inquiries, prepare Council Meeting minutes, and are currently helping to prepare for the upcoming Annual Municipal Elections. They are able to address customer inquiries in English and fluent Spanish and routinely come in during emergencies and inclement weather events to cover the phone calls that provide our residents with crucial information during outages.

Our Utility Billing Representative processes approximately 5,000 monthly utility bills for services provided by the City of Seaford including Streets, Water, Sewer, and Electric, as well as processing the daily work orders for City services. She also assists customers with bill inquiries, prepares Electric Committee meeting minutes and performs administrative duties to support the day-to-day operations of the personnel in our Utility departments.

Our Credit Representative processes monthly disconnects for non-payment of services, prepares and maintains financial good standing reports, processes monthly miscellaneous accounts receivable invoices, and performs collection duties.

Our Executive Secretary provides overall administrative and clerical support to the Mayor and City Council and maintains the City's filing system. She currently holds the vice president seat's of the Delaware Municipal Clerks Association and will become president of the association in June 2016. She also processes the annual and quarterly City Real Estate Tax bills, updates property tax records, assists the tax assessor with tax appeals & processes Realty Tax transfer records.

Our Accounting Assistant works with the Director of Finance to maintain all accounting records in accordance with current accounting standards. She reviews all purchase requisitions and distributes purchase orders; prepares invoices for payment and processes accounts payable checks through print and mail. She also maintains records for proper distribution of expenditures and reviews costs for accuracy and in accordance with City bids.

Our Human Resources Coordinator maintains the employee information database, payroll records, and personnel files. She manages and ensures timely and accurate processing of weekly time and attendance across multiple departments to include payroll production, reporting, accounting and taxation consistent with federal and state wage and hour laws. She also manages the benefits administration of 85 full-time employees, assists in the scheduling of employee training, processes all Freedom of Information Act requests and general liability and workers compensation insurance claims.

The Administration staff is managed by the Director of Finance and Human Resources who performs complex financial and human resource administrative duties. She oversees the investments, cash flow, budgets, finances, grants, staff supervision, personnel policies, reporting, and customer service within the organization while serving on many different committees as well as a member on the Edmunds & Associates Client Advisory Board.

The City of Seaford's Administration Department is one of the key elements associated with a high level of workplace productivity and efficiency, and without this effective team, our organization would not run as smoothly. Should you have any questions concerning our Administration Department, please contact City Hall at (302) 629-9173, Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.



2016 Golf Pass

Monthly or Full Year

April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017



SEAFORD, DE

302 629-2890 www.Hooperslanding.com

- ◊ Unlimited Greens Fees - walk anytime or Cart Fees at \$15 per person (18 holes) or buy in Bulk
 - ◊ Discount Range Balls or Range programs available
 - ◊ 20% Off Clothing at retail price and Golf Pass Only tournaments

Single Golf Pass

- ◊ \$125 a Month for April thru October
- ◊ \$75 a Month for November thru March
- ◊ Pay only 1 month with no commitment
- ◊ Pay 7 Monthly Payments & get the rest free*
- ◊ Or Pay for full year by April 10th at \$825.

Family Golf Pass

- ◊ \$200 a Month for April thru October
- ◊ \$125 a Month for November thru March
- ◊ Pay only 1 month with no commitment
- ◊ Pay 7 Monthly Payments & get the rest free*
- ◊ Or Pay for full year by April 10th at \$1350.

* Starting April 2016, Pay 7 monthly payments during the Golf Pass year and receive the rest of the months Free until March 31, 2017



City Code Facts You Should Know!

If you have any questions or would like a complete copy of any of the City Codes, you are welcome to contact the Code Department at 302-629-9173.

Dog Ordinance

The City Council adopted a “Dog Ordinance” several years ago to promote the health, safety and general welfare of the citizens of our community and to also promote the responsible and humane handling of the dog by its owner. **Highlights** of the Ordinance: All dogs over the age of six (6) months must have a license issued by the Delaware Department of Natural Resources; a rabies vaccination is also required; No more than three (3) dogs over the age of six months are permitted in a dwelling unit;

- Know where your dog is at all times; dogs are not permitted to run at large.
- Dogs must be on a leash or securely confined indoors or in a kennel, pen or fenced area which is designed to prevent the dog from escaping.
- Dogs cannot be tethered to any object for an extended period of time.
- The dog kennel, pen, yard or enclosure must be cleaned daily to ensure the dog’s good health and welfare.
- When walking your dog, please clean up your dog’s waste.

If a dog bites a person or another animal, call 911 immediately.

Property ID

Is your house the only one on your street that does not have house numbers? Is your place of business clearly identified? Several years ago, the City Council adopted an Ordinance to require the clear display of the properly assigned house or building numbers. This assists police, fire and emergency services to better locate a property in case of an emergency. The numbering of buildings also enhances the 911 system. **Important points:** All entrances from public streets to buildings fronting on streets shall be numbered. The numbers should be placed in the immediate area of the front entrance.

- All residential address numbers shall be a minimum of three (3) inches in height.
- Commercial and industrial address numbers shall be a minimum of 10 inches in height. In higher density commercial areas, the height of the numbers may be reduced only with the approval of the Building Official.
- The numbers should be of a reflective material or have sufficient visual contrast with the background material to be easily discernible with the aid of an emergency vehicle spotlight.
- In buildings with multiple occupants, separate numbers should be posted on, above, or to the side of the entrance to each unit.

Weeds & Vegetation

This Ordinance requires that all grass, weeds, and uncontrolled vegetation be no taller than 10 inches. Please don’t blow grass clippings into the street as they can block the storm drains and cause deterioration of the pavement. Please bag them and place them along the curb line for the City to pick up. If your property backs up to an alley, please remember to cut the grass in the alley behind your property.

Swimming Pools

Did you know that before you set up any type of swimming pool, including an inflatable pool that holds more than 300 gallons of water, you have to obtain a permit from the City? In addition, your yard must be fenced or the pool must have swing up steps with a lockable gate and must be kept locked when the pool is not in use. These precautions protect you and the public.

Trash

The accumulation of trash is a health and safety hazard to you, your neighbors and the general public. Trash bags should be stored inside durable metal or plastic containers with tight fitting lids, and the containers should be emptied on a regular basis or at least once a week. Several trash collection companies operate within our community; they will provide a container for your use and pick up the trash on a weekly basis.

Playing Games

If you have a portable basketball net, please remember that it may not be placed at the curb for playing basketball in the street. Playing games of any kind in the street is prohibited. This is for everyone’s safety.

DEMEC Reward the City for Outstanding Demand Response

The Delaware Municipal Electric Corporation (DEMEC) congratulates the City of Seaford for its outstanding participation in the 2015/2016 Demand Response Program Year. The city received an incentive for reducing its energy consumption during high energy use hours last summer. This year is also special because it marks five years of participation in DEMEC's program during which the City of Seaford has earned approximately \$70,000.

Participants in the DEMEC/CPower Demand Response Program contribute to the reliability and stability of the regional electric grid. They help by reducing their individual electric usage during high energy usage times (peak hours). Typically, peak hours occur on especially hot, late afternoon days during the summer. During these hours the regional grid can become constrained which can impact reliability and can quickly cause prices for electricity to spike. By reducing load, individual consumers save the whole community money by limiting the necessity of purchasing more expensive sources of electricity.

Implementing a demand response program has become an effective tool for utilities to combat reliability and high electricity cost issues. In return for their help, enrolled participants are provided an incentive for supporting the whole community and the regional grid.

To learn how your company can earn incentives for participating in the DEMEC/Comverge Demand Response Program, contact Scott Lynch, Energy Services Manager for DEMEC at (302) 653-2733 or by email at slynch@demecinc.net For more information regarding this program, please contact our Electric Department at (302) 629-9841.



Front Row Left to Right: Scott Lynch, Energy Services Manager DEMEC, Dolores Slatcher, Seaford City Manager; Seaford Mayor David Genshaw; Back Row Left to Right: Charles Anderson, Seaford Asst. City Manager; Bill Bennett, Seaford Electric Superintendent; Rick Garner, Seaford Electrical Engineer