

City of Seaford News



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A Message from the desk of Acting Mayor David Genshaw

I want to thank you for reading our City newsletter. With your help and input, we want to revitalize this communication with hopes of keeping you informed. Please give us your feedback, and let us know what you would like to see.

Our number one priority is to position our City for growth. Whether it is development along our waterfront, redevelopment of our downtown or new construction along US 13/Sussex Highway and the industrial park, we want to be open and ready to discuss these opportunities. We have had some diverse interest in our old Powerhouse building, and we are excited to see the possibilities of this property redevelop.

Another area we continue to work on and improve is the quality of life. The walking trails around Hooper's Landing have become a destination point for those looking for a safe, outside exercise. We launched on-line payments for utilities this past year as well as on-line registration for our recreation leagues. Two storm water projects wrapped up in 2013, providing safe run off during heavy rains. We have several projects in the works for 2014, one of which will improve parking at the Nanticoke Little League Complex in Williams Pond Park.

I invite each of you to attend a City Council Meeting which is held the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. You can sign up to receive on-line the agenda and minutes from previous meetings. Your involvement is wanted and is appreciated.

Thank you again for your time; I look forward to hearing from you.

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Special points of interest

- Online Payments can be made now.
- E-bills can be sent.
- Be sure to register to vote in the upcoming Municipal Election!
- February is National Heart Month!

Martin Luther King Prayer Breakfast

The annual Western Sussex MLK Day of Celebration Rise & Shine Breakfast will be held on Monday, January 20, 2014, 8:00 a.m., at Heritage Shores Golf and Country Club, Bridgeville, Del. This year's theme is "Fifty Years and Counting" in remembrance of the 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King's historic march on Washington. The Community Recognition awardee is Mrs. Brenda Whitehurst, who has been an advocate in the areas of entrepreneurship and career development. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Harry Williams, president of Delaware State University; musical selections will be performed by soloists Alberta Smith and Greg Brittingham. Tickets are on sale for \$22 per ticket and must be purchased in advance; no tickets will be sold at the door. For more information or to purchase tickets, please contact Jocelyn or Herb Quick at 302-629-4949 or by e-mail at herb@hamiltongraphics.com.



Senior Citizen Tax Exemption

Are you a senior citizen 65 years or older before July 1, 2014 who owns property in our City? Have you owned the property 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 City property taxes.

Those who qualify for this program 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 currently noted in our records as exempt; applications will be available at www.seafordde.com and at City Hall after April 1.

Online Payments Are Here!

Online payments can be made now for taxes and utilities. Just log onto our Web site-www.seafordde.com-and look for e-services. From there, go to bill payment & inquiry. You will need your account and pin number to use this service.

You can also now receive an e-bill rather than a paper bill. The bill will be e-mailed directly to you. If you have any questions or would like to sign up, contact Jeanne Sapp at 302-629-9173 or by e-mail at jsapp@seafordde.com

MUNICIPAL ELECTION INFORMATION

The City of Seaford Municipal Election will be held on Saturday, April 19, 2014 in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, 414 High Street, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. E.S.T. and 6:00 p.m. E.S.T.



One (1) Mayor will be elected for a two year term
Two (2) Council Members will be elected for a three year term.

All candidates must have filed by 5:00 p.m., E.S.T., March 28, 2014. Any candidate who withdraws his/her name must do so in writing. Any candidate who withdraws his/her name after 5:00 p.m., E.S.T., March 28, 2014 will still appear on the official ballot for election.

Anyone eighteen (18) years of age or older who is a bona fide resident to be eligible to vote, must have been registered at the Seaford City Hall by 5:00 p.m., E.S.T., March 28, 2014. A nonresident 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 19, 2013) 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. To vote, you must meet the eligibility requirements and be registered on the "Books of Registered Voters" maintained at City Hall.

A person shall be required to register only one time. You are urged to check your registration if you did not vote in the last municipal election.

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 address, a City of Seaford utility bill or real estate property tax bill, or other acceptable proof of residency or ownership.

Be in the Know!

Did you know you can receive City information right at home in your computer inbox? You can receive updates on items such as annexation, City Council, elections, newsletters, Parks & Recreation, press releases, public notices and road closures. You can also sign up on the same page for text notifications, which are sent only in times of public safety and/or concern. By clicking on the "Get Notifications" button on our Web site, you can keep up-to-date with current City information. Just fill out and submit the form with your name, address, e-mail address and your items of interest.

If interested in emergency text notifications, fill out the smaller form on the upper right hand side of the page with your last name, cell number and carrier information. If there are additional notifications you would like to suggest, send us an e-mail at info@seafordde.com.

Friendly Reminders

- Snow & ice should be removed from the sidewalks/curbing in front of or adjacent to your property within 24 hours after the snow has stopped falling.
- Your property needs to have clearly displayed address numbers on your house, building or mailbox. This assists police, fire and other emergency services to identify your property.
- The accumulation of trash is a health and life safety hazard. Every property should have durable metal or plastic containers with tight-fitting lids to hold trash bags. The containers should, at a minimum, be emptied weekly.
- Untagged, inoperable, or junk vehicles are not permitted in the city limits.
- Recreational vehicles, including utility trailers, campers, motor homes, boats, boat trailers and vehicles of a similar use can't be parked on a city street overnight.
- In addition to the usual City Building Permits, permits are also required for sheds, sidewalks & curbing, fencing and swimming pools. Sussex County may also require a permit. To confirm if you need a permit from Sussex County, call the County Permit Office at 302-855-7720.

Parks & Recreation Online Registration

Did you know that you can now register for our Parks and Recreation programs? Just go to our Web site -www.seafordde.com- and click on Recreation; it will take you right where you need to go!

Like us on Facebook (Seaford Parks and Recreation) to see pictures, get news and updates. If you have any questions or have any problems, please contact Scott Coulbourn, Supt. Of Parks and Recreation, at 302-629-6809.

Seaford recognized as Silver Award Winner for Community Health Promotion

Seaford recently was recognized by Governor Markell and the Delaware Council on Health Promotion and Disease Prevention through Delaware's Recognition for Community Health Promotion program; the program highlights the efforts of Delaware's municipalities which incorporate health-promoting options as an integral part of their services and infrastructure. Seaford was awarded the silver level award, which shows its outstanding achievement in support and opportunities across all environments aimed at improving the overall health of our community members. Other communities receiving this prestigious award were: Town of

Middletown (Gold); City of New Castle (Bronze); City of Newark (Bronze); City of Wilmington/ South Wilmington (Bronze); Town of Bethany Beach (Honorable Mention); City of Dover (Honorable Mention).



Gateway Park Turns Red for Heart Month

During the month of February, Nanticoke Health Services will light up Gateway Park in recognition of Heart Month. Heart disease is the leading cause of death for both men and women, but heart disease is preventable and controllable. Some health factors and lifestyles may put you at greater risk for heart disease, but there are some things you can do to help prevent it:

- Eat a healthy diet.
- Maintain a healthy weight.
- Exercise regularly.
- Monitor your blood pressure.
- Don't smoke.
- Limit alcohol use.
- Have your cholesterol checked.
- Manage any medical conditions you may have. (i.e., Diabetes)
- Take medications as prescribed.

CDC. "February is Heart Month." February 4, 2013.
<http://www.cdc.gov/Features/HeartMonth/> (Nov. 7.



After almost 41 years of service with the City of Seaford, Sharon Drugash will Retire!

When City Manager Dolores Slatcher asked me to write this article for the newsletter, I said sure, thinking “no problem,” but it’s a little harder than I thought it would be. You see, after nearly 41 years with the City of Seaford, I’m retiring! April 25 will be my last working day.

In 1973, I started work as a cashier (We weren’t “customer service representatives” back then.) and since then have worn many hats-Tax Assessor, Office Manager, Power Manager and Real Estate/Payroll Manager. I’ve gone from being the youngest in the office to being the oldest; in fact, only one employee city-wide is older! I’ve seen the City grow and change so very much. Work was never boring, because I never knew what I’d end up doing that day-normal duties, reading electric or water meters (when we walked the routes), planting flowers in a park, just to name a few. I’ve been through four computer conversions and two real estate reassessments-and I’m glad I won’t have to go through either one again!

During all these years, I’ve worked with a lot of amazing people-fellow employees, elected officials, consultants from City engineers, DEMEC and DPL employees,

and city residents. This is what I’ll miss -the people. I hope City residents realize how fortunate they are to have highly-skilled people devoted only to them-from the utility divisions to the police department – pretty much 24/7.

I am looking forward to having more time to devote to family and friends. I have grandchildren to spend more time with, as well as my husband, sons, mother, sisters, brothers and a whole bunch of nieces and nephews. I could not have had this long and, I feel successful, career without the support of my husband, Don, and sons, Billy and Steven. There were many times I had to put work ahead of family, and there was never a complaint, though I’m sure Don will be very glad to have company at home during blizzards, hurricanes and power outages!

Seaford has been home all my life and the City of Seaford “home” for more than 40 years. When asked what I’ll do on my last day, I said “probably cry a little and laugh a lot”. There will be lots of things I’ll miss, but I’ll carry a lot of wonderful memories with me. I’ll be seeing you around town!

Let it Snow! Let it Snow! Let it Snow!

Although the snow is beautiful, it can also be dangerous. The City of Seaford has ordinances in place to help keep you safe. Did you know that you must clear your sidewalk in front of your house or business within 24 hours after the snow stops? This helps to prevent the snow from icing over on the sidewalks. Also, be sure that you check where your vehicle is parked during a snowfall. If it is on a snow route, the vehicle needs to be moved. These areas are signed. We want to do our part to help keep everyone safe in the event of inclement weather.

If you have an emergency, please contact the Seaford Police Department. The emergency number is always 911. If you have a question or concern during a snow fall about snow plowing or your electric service, please call City Hall at 302-629-9173 during business hours or the non-emergency number at 302-629-4550 after hours. If it is a major city-wide emergency, staff will be in place at City Hall to handle your non-emergency calls.

Unlike schools and other agencies, no city offices close during snow storms and staff does report to work. For more information regarding snow emergency routes and snow removal, please call Berley Mears, Director of Public Works, at 302-629-8307.



Protecting your property from flood damage

FEMA recently updated some of the Flood Insurance Rate Maps for our community. Some of the changes may affect your property.

Seaford's Flood Hazard: Seaford is in a fairly good situation with regard to the elevations subject to flooding. On the banks of the Nanticoke River, we range from eight (8) feet above sea level to 30 feet above sea level. These elevations place very few properties in the flood zone.

Flood Warning System: Unique local factors make it especially important that residents and businesses be aware of local flood warnings. During extreme conditions, the bridge at Blades Causeway could cause some inconvenience to persons living south of the Nanticoke River. When flooding threatens the area, tune to radio station WSUX 98.3 FM and WJDY 1280 AM and to TV stations WBOC 16 and WMDT 47. Also, the NOAA weather radios are a good source of flood hazard information. Most importantly, listen for and act on official warnings issued by the City.

Flood Safety: There are several steps you can take in order to increase your personal safety and protect your property if Seaford is hit by a severe flood. Shut off your electricity and gas prior to evacuation. This greatly reduces the chance of fire. The Delaware Dept. of Transportation warns that driving in water which is six (6) inches or deeper is hazardous. When water obscures the road surface, flood-induced cracks, holes and undermining can be deadly.

Flood Insurance: The City of Seaford participates in the National Flood Insurance Program. In exchange for the flood hazard reduction codes enforced by the City, affordable flood insurance is available to all residents within our community.

Homeowner's insurance does NOT cover flood damage. Flood insurance may be purchased from a number of local agents and structure and/or content coverage may be tailored to your needs. If you are in a flood zone and do not have flood insurance, FEMA will not pay for any damages in the event of a catastrophe.

Property Protection: Store loose ground level objects on elevated decks or porches. Consider replacing damaged steps, boardwalks or sheds with types that can be adequately anchored or elevated for safety. Your automobile is at great risk if you leave it in town during a flood. Examine your home or business frequently for signs of stresses which may indicate an increased vulnerability. Are foundations rotting or cracking? Are pile-to-joist connections pulling apart? Does your home have hurricane clips that are in good shape? By finding signs of weakness before the storm hits, you may be able to avoid major problems. If you are experiencing flood damage to your property, the City Building Official can suggest ways to prevent it.

Permit Procedure: Please remember that all development in Seaford requires a Building Permit which can be obtained at City Hall. By doing this, you ensure that the proposed work will conform to the local Building Code and be properly designed to resist flood damage. *For additional information on the Community Flood Hazard Areas, see more information filed at the Seaford District Library or stop by City Hall.*

Flood Hazard Zones: The City of Seaford provides many services which can help you design a flood-resistant structure or reduce the threat to an existing one. The key is to know the base flood elevation on your site. Seaford's Building Official has up-to-date floodplain maps. As the Floodplain Coordinator for the community, the Building Official can locate your property on the Flood Insurance Rate Map and provide a Flood Zone Determination. The Building Official can also advise you about how to minimize flood risk. The City also has copies of Elevation Certificates for some properties in the floodplain.

Drainage Maintenance: A town as low and as flat as Seaford is going to have drainage problems by its very nature. Please be aware that additional construction will lead to excessive ponding of water. The streets can become dangerous when standing water causes loss of traction to drivers. You can assist in resolving this potential problem by locating catch basins on or around your property. Check them periodically. Assist in keeping debris off catch basins and report any problems that you observe.



Making Improvements to Your Property: One of the primary objectives of floodplain Building Codes is to reduce flood damage. For this reason, older flood prone buildings must be brought up to current flood protection standards if and when a substantial improvement is undertaken.

Please contact Josh Littleton, City Building Official, at 302-629-9173 with any questions.