

City of Seaford News



Issue Number 5 | January | 2015

A brief look at the Electric Department - Staff and Projects

The City of Seaford Electric Department maintains over 80 miles of primary wire on its electrical grid. There are more than 68 miles of overhead wire, 11 miles of underground wire and three miles of transmission lines on the system. Approximately 4,000 electrical customers are serviced by a crew of 11 employees and a dispatch center that answers customer call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

The time of service for employees in the electric department runs from more than 30 years to six months and training from a ground man position to a lead journeyman. In the department is a technical coordinator who tests and installs meters, operates the SCADA system, answers service calls during the day and installs recording voltmeters when required.

There is a construction coordinator who runs the daily operation of the crews that you see working each day and during storms and outages. An electrical superintendent oversees the entire department, works on the budget, procures materials, plans for the future projects, plans for system upgrades and answers the questions and concerns of the management, Mayor and City Council. An electrical engineer helps maintain the SCADA system, draws prints for jobs, works with the customers on complaints and load management questions.

Some of the upcoming projects to maintain the city's system and the reliability of service to you:

- Tree trimming in the Martin Farms and Westview areas.
- Replacement of some in-line switches and old air brake switches on North St., Stein Hwy. and Eskridge Hwy. to improve the ability to tie circuits together during outages.
- Replacement of old cross arms and the increase of conductor size on circuit 210 from the Pine St. substation down Virginia Ave to Bridgeville Hwy. and then south to the new air brake switch on North St.



Inside this issue

Senior Tax Info 2

Election Info 3

MLK Event 3

Snow Info 4

Heart Month 4

Walk & Talk 5

Special points of interest

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

A Message from the desk of Mayor David Genshaw

Happy New Year!

2015 will be an exciting year for Seaford, and we are very glad you are here.

While writing this, I'm reflecting on all that happened in Seaford in 2014:

- * The challenges with our road improvements on Stein Hwy and on Rt.13 are coming to an end, and we can see and appreciate the improvements.
- * The City had some key employees retire, and they are certainly missed. We were blessed to find well-qualified people who are bringing new ideas and excitement to the job. Although they have big shoes to fill, I believe they will have an incredible impact on our future.
- * Our Parks and Recreation Dept. added some new programs.
- * The Public Works Dept. kept our City in good repair and clean.
- * The Electric service continues to remain trustworthy and dependable; even when the occasional vehicle accident or squirrel tries to cause problems, the dept. employees have us back up and running quickly.
- * Finally, my thanks to the Seaford Police Department for keeping us safe.
- * We ended the year by going through a Re-Branding process that brought us together to update Seaford's image the outcome will be exciting!

The new year will have challenges but also many opportunities. Business interest in Seaford continues to be strong, and I expect to see new projects begin. We continue to work to make our processes and service faster and better for new and growing development opportunities.

People are looking for ways to enjoy the outdoors, and Seaford offers walking, biking, fishing, boating and enjoying the Nanticoke River. We will continue to promote our beautiful trails and countless ways to enjoy our community. This spring, we will celebrate Seaford's 150th Anniversary and hope you will come out and enjoy this event.

There is an incredible hunger to see Seaford be more. Your involvement is needed and wanted. Thank you for being part of the Seaford family!



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 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.

MUNICIPAL ELECTION

APRIL 18, 2015



The City of Seaford Municipal Election will be held on Saturday, April 18, 2015 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.

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 27, 2015. 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 27, 2015 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 27, 2015. 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 18, 2014) 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.

Helpful 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 address numbers **clearly displayed** on your house, building or mailbox. This will assist 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 cannot be parked on a city street over night.

Martin Luther King Prayer Breakfast

The annual Western Sussex MLK Day of Celebration Rise & Shine Breakfast will be held on Monday, January 19, 2015, 8:00 a.m., at Heritage Shores Golf and Country Club, Bridgeville, Del.

This year's theme is "Injustice Anywhere is a Threat to Justice Everywhere". The Community Recognition awardee is Mr. Dale Dukes, who has been acknowledged for several contributions made locally and internationally. The keynote speaker will be Rev. John Moore; live entertainment will be performed.

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 call 628-1908.



Parks & Recreation Online Registration

Did you know that you can now register online for our Parks and Recreation programs? Just go to the City's Web site - www.seafordde.com and click on Recreation; it will take you to the registration information!

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

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.



City streets are cleared in accordance to priorities - first opening primary roads for emergency responders, secondary streets are next, then feeder streets and last the alleys. This order of clearance ensures that first responders have access should you have an emergency. We hope you understand our process and work with us to assure the City is responsive to all needs.

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.

Gateway Park Turns Red for Heart Month

During the month of February, Nanticoke Health Services and the City of Seaford will light up Gateway Park and City Hall 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.



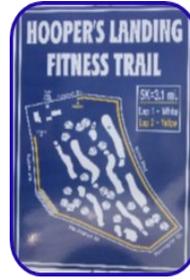
CDC. "February is Heart Month." February 4, 2013.
<http://www.cdc.gov/Features/HeartMonth/> (Nov. 7, 2013)

Mayor's quarterly "Walk & Talk"

Have you ever wished you had the opportunity to have a candid conversation with the Mayor? Have you been thinking about focusing on a healthier you? Well, now you can do both.

On Monday, April 6 at 6 p.m., Mayor David Genshaw will host his second of three quarterly "Walk & Talk" events at the Hooper's Landing Walking Trail; the other event will be held on Monday, July 6.

"As the City of Seaford's Mayor, I want to provide an opportunity for our residents to speak with me in an informal setting, as well as give them an opportunity to be outdoors participating in a healthy venue. I look forward to seeing you there!" said Genshaw.



Helpful Reminders

- In addition to 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 the County, call the County Permit Office at 302-855-7720.
- Please do not allow your dog to run loose. Dogs should be kept on a leash, securely confined indoors or a kennel, pen or fenced area which is designed to prevent a dog from escaping. If you encounter a dog that is running loose, immediately contact the Seaford Police Department at 629-6644, ext. 0. If a dog is attacking a person or another animal, call 911 immediately. When walking your dog, please clean up its waste and by ordinance you are to clean-up after your dog in any public right-of-way. Dog waste should also be cleaned up on your property (kennel, pen, fenced area) and disposed of in a sanitary manner.
- Keeping certain types of live animals within the City is prohibited. This includes livestock, swine, cow, bull, sheep, pig, goat, goose, duck, chicken, hen, rooster, turkey, poultry fowl, rabbits or like animal or other farm animal, as well as snakes, foxes, wolves or other wild animals.
- Temporary storage containers and dumpsters are not permitted to be placed in a public right-of-way.
- Please contact the City of Seaford Code Department at 302-629-9173 for more information.



The leaf machine does not operate after December 31st.

Leaves must be bagged January 1 to September 30.
The leaf machine runs from
October 1-December 31 each year.

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: tnewcomer@seafordde.com.



Sewer Problems? Contact Us First!

If you are experiencing sewer problems, call the City Public Works Department FIRST (during normal business hours at 629-8307; after hours at 629-4550). If the sewer main is flowing with no obvious blockage, we will advise you to call a plumber. We will also ask that if the plumber finds a problem from your curb to the main, please call the City back so that we can determine the condition of the lateral. **The maintenance of the lateral from the main to your house is your responsibility.**

If we determine that replacement is needed from the curb to the main, the City may take responsibility as long as there is a cleanout at the curb for our access and investigating purposes. Please contact Berley Mears, Public Works Superintendent, at 629-8307 if you have any questions.