

City of Seaford News



Issue Number 7 | July | 2015

21st ANNUAL NANTICOKE RIVERFEST “PAINTING THE NANTICOKE”

Be sure to mark your calendars now! This summer’s most anticipated event is right around the corner Riverfest, July 10-11, in Downtown Seaford. As always this event promises something for everyone: Live Entertainment, Car Show, Boat Parade, Art Show, Fishing Tournament, Food and Craft Vendors, Canoe/Kayak Races, Children’s Area, and the signature event—FLOAT-IN! Registration for this year’s float-in begins at 1 p.m. and the float begins at 3 p.m. The City provides shuttle service to the launch site from downtown. You can hop on the shuttle located near North and Water Streets at 1 p.m. For more detailed information and a schedule of events, please visit our Website: www.nanticokeriverfest.com and follow us on Facebook! See you downtown!



ELECTRIC DEPT. WINS 1ST PLACE

Bill Bennett, Superintendent of Electric, presented the American Public Power Association Safety Award to the Mayor and Council on May 26, 2015. Mr. Bennett stated that the City of Seaford Electric Department was awarded the APPA Safety Award for its safe operations in 2014, for having 21,370 hours of work with no work-related injuries for the department. Seaford’s electric department is one of 25 similar departments that received this award.

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A message from the desk of



Mayor David Genshaw

It is an exciting time to live in Seaford! Consequently, there is a lot to read about in this newsletter.

“Seaford the Perfect Place to Start” is beginning to come to life. Banners are in place downtown, and, more importantly, business interest is up and growing. The Downtown Designation awarded to Seaford has its first project, The Residences at Riverplace, with plans of a shovel in the ground by late summer. I believe this will be the start of an uptick in our downtown and throughout Seaford ... something we have not seen in many years.

A new fitness center and spa has opened in the Nylon Capital Shopping Center, and expansion is underway at the Perdue grain facility along the Nanticoke River, along with many other opportunities. Thank you to the brokers and relators for selling Seaford. We could not do it without you.

I am also very proud that the City’s FY 2016 budget was passed with no increase in taxes or fees. This sets the tone that we want to keep costs low for the people who live, work and invest in Seaford. Currently, the fees and permit expenses are some of the lowest in the County. We want to retain and grow business in Seaford. Thank you to our City Council for its leadership in this effort.

Since the last newsletter, we have tweaked our Council meetings and information posted on the Website to allow interested individuals to stay-up-to-date on the topics being discussed. We hope you like the changes, and your feedback is appreciated. We are blessed to live in such a beautiful town along the Nanticoke River. Enjoy your summer ...see you at Riverfest!

David Genshaw

Mayor’s “Right Choice” Winner Announced



On Tuesday, May 26 at the City Council meeting, Mayor David Genshaw awarded the 2015 Mayor’s Right Choice Award to Michael Bogle, a Seaford High School senior. The primary purpose of this award is to honor a senior residing within the Seaford School District, who, by making the right choices in life, has exhibited a positive influence on the Seaford community. The award is not intended to acknowledge academic achievements but rather to recognize the student as a role model. It is the hope that this program, which rewards students who make the right choices in life, will encourage other youth to aspire to do the same. Mr.

Bogle received a plaque and a \$500 scholarship. He plans to further his education and serve our country by joining the U.S. Navy.

20 Years for AFRAM Festival ~ August 7, 8

AFRAM will celebrate 20 years on Friday, August 7 and Saturday, August 8 at the Seaford Sports Complex. Event organizers say it will enrich your body, mind and soul with a selection of cultural foods, fascinating exhibits, and free live music ... Reggae, Jazz, Gospel, Blues/Soul, Calypso ... what could be better? Remember to bring your lawn chairs for great seating.

Stroll among AFRAM's cultural vendors for some of the best foods and exotic imports: African textiles, printed fashions, incense, jewelry and accessories, natural beauty products, and fine arts/crafts and books from across the Diaspora. There will be free information and networking opportunities about wellness, education, family care, entrepreneurship, employment; government agencies and services available among AFRAM's Community Resource/ Non-Profit vendors.

On Friday night as the evening cools, and stars light up the sky, the music heats up with a favorite mix master, DJ Blade, followed by the sweet, smooth sounds from this year's featured band, Jazzy Blu.

Saturday gives visitors an opportunity to explore and enjoy exhibits, such as the Buffalo Soldiers' presentation and the Exhibition Tent where you can see and play resident artist Errol Sobers' one-of-a-kind musical instruments, all of which are constructed of recycled materials. Later, swing to the sounds of Best Kept Soul Band!

Source: AFRAM web site



Friendly Reminders

- No more than three (3) dogs over the age of six months are permitted in a dwelling unit.
- Trash bags should be stored inside durable metal or plastic containers and have tight-fitting lids.
- You need to obtain a permit from the City if you have any type of swimming pool, including an inflatable pool, that holds more than 300 gallons of water.
- The Weeds and Vegetation Ordinance requires that all grass, weeds and uncontrolled vegetation should be no taller than 10 inches
- Basketball nets should not be placed at the curb to avoid playing basketball in the street.

Parks and Recreation Happenings

Youth Flag Football: The Recreation Department is now taking registrations for Youth Flag Football for ages 6-14. Register online at www.seafordde.com under "Recreation", or stop by the Recreation office. Cost is \$40, practices will start in mid-August and games being in September.

Upcoming Adult Programs for Fall: Volleyball, Adult Flag Football, and Softball: Co-ed and Men's Slow Pitch. Call 302-629-6809 for more information on these and all other programs.



Seaford
Parks
& Rec

MUNICIPAL ELECTION

The Annual Municipal Election was held on April 18, 2015 at City Hall. Three candidates ran for two open seats on City Council for a three-year term.

The results:

Shane Beard - 74

Orlando Holland - 210

Grace Peterson - 179

Thank you to everyone

Hydrant Flushing Begins September 7th

Each year, Seaford is required to flush all fire hydrants within city limits to determine flow and pressure, to update information for the fire service and insurance companies, to keep hydrants properly color-coded and to determine needed repairs and make necessary corrections.

Public Works Personnel will open all city hydrants individually in the designated areas and allow run-off until clear water appears. After fire hydrants are flushed in your area, you may notice dirty water when first turning on faucets. To correct this, turn on a cold water faucet, and let water run until clear water appears. This usually take two-three minutes, depending on the length of pipe from the water main. All questions should be directed to Berley Mears, Director of Public Works, at 302-629-8307.



Good things are happening in **Downtown Seaford!** In January of this year, Governor Jack Markell designated Seaford as one of the three Downtown Development Districts in Delaware. Since that time, interest in downtown Seaford has grown tremendously; properties have changed hands, and new businesses are opening. In August, the Residences at Riverplace will begin

to break ground along the Nanticoke River on two-four-story apartment buildings with 72 apartment units, clubhouse, pool, gym and boat docks. The former Executive Center now has a new owner and several new businesses. The Aleman Investment Group, which owns the building is planning to locate there along with the Delaware Democrats Western Office, Seaford Tomorrow Inc., 1st State Carpet Cleaning, Immigration Attorney Services, Mortgage Market of Delaware, E.C. Sweeter, Unique Designz Event Planning and Greg Fuller Campaign office. Plans to occupy some of the other vacant buildings downtown in the near future include a bakery and two restaurants, one being a BBQ establishment. People are recognizing that *Seaford IS the Perfect Place To Start!* Keep a close eye on downtown—great things are happening here.

Skills Challenge & Happy Hour at Hooper's Landing

Would you like to do something different and have fun? Come to Hooper's Landing on Friday nights during July. From 6:00 p.m. to dusk, there will be five (5) skills in which you can compete: Flop-Shot Challenge, Glass-Breaking Challenge, Three-Pitch Challenge, Bump & Run Challenge, and Putting Challenge.

There is a cost of \$15 to participate in all three challenges. Enjoy "Happy Hour" drink specials with an opportunity to win weekly gift certificate prizes.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please call Hooper's Landing at 302-629-2890.



HOOPER'S LANDING
GOLF COURSE

Employee Spotlight

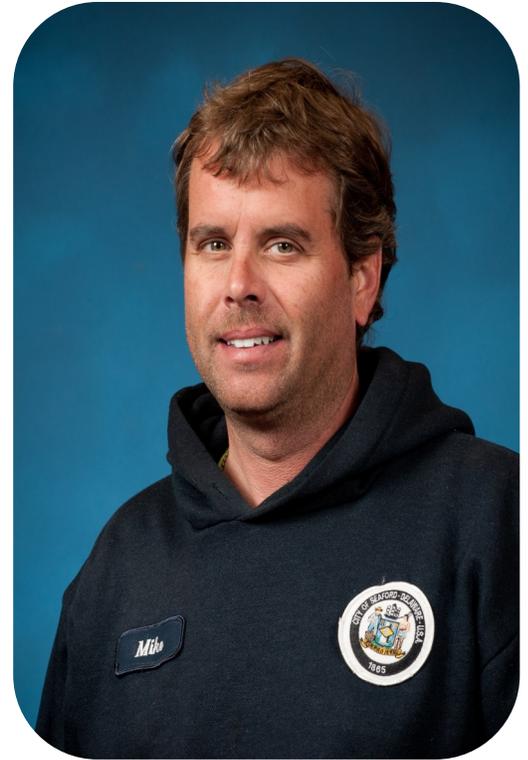
The City of Seaford Electric Department has dedicated men who work to ensure that your electric is always on.

Meet Mike Moore, an employee in the Electric Department. On July 9, Mike will celebrate his 14th year of employment with the City.

A Seaford resident, Mike is a family man who is very close to his two children, Carter and Rylie. Carter joined the U.S. Army and is currently stationed in Fort Leonard Wood, MO. Rylie will be a senior this fall at Seaford High School.

Mike has been a member of the Seaford Volunteer Fire Department since January 26, 2000. In his spare time, he enjoys playing in a band known as “Low Profile.”

If you see Mike around town, please be sure to thank him for the dedicated service that he has given and will continue to provide in the future. He is a valued employee!



Sewer Backup? Contact Us First!

In May 2008, the City of Seaford City Council adopted the Back Water Valve Policy. Damage to your property because of a sewer back-up is a potential problem for every property owner connected to the public sewer system. You may not be aware that from any point in the system, the introduction of items such as disposable diapers, tree roots, and grease can cause clogs and back-ups in spite of regular City maintenance and cleaning. The City has a policy in effect that requires property owners (or tenants) call us first when experiencing a sewer problem. We will determine if it is a problem with our facilities or if the services of a plumber may be necessary. We do this at no charge in an attempt to save an unnecessary plumbing bill and also to rectify the problem as soon as possible.

During regular business hours call us at 302-629-9173; after hours or weekends, you can call the non-emergency number at 302-629-4550, and the dispatcher will assist you. The City of Seaford cannot guarantee that your sewer system will never back-up and, in most cases the City, is not responsible to pay for damages resulting from a sewer back-up. Buildings with floor drains and/or plumbing fixtures which are subject to backflow of sewage from the public sewer should have a “Backwater Valve” installed on their service lateral.

For additional information regarding this device and its installation contact Josh Littleton, Building Official, at 302-629-9173.

What Does It Take to Become a City of Seaford Police Officer?

The information below is a step by step process for individuals interested in a career with the City of Seaford Police Department.

- Application: The Seaford Police Department accepts applications on a continual basis. Applicants must be 21 years of age; high school diploma is required. No criminal history and be willing to work shift work. Applications are accepted until the next testing process.
- Written test—applicants must score a 70 percent or better in order to move forward in the process
- Physical agility test—the test is age-based and includes a 1.5 mile run, sit-ups, push-ups and a flex test which all must be passed.
- Oral Interview
- Background investigation for approximately three weeks
- Trust verification exam by a licensed examiner
- Conditional Job Offer
- Complete physical exam (as required by the Delaware Council on Police Training)
- Eye Exam (to meet Council on Police Training Standards)
- Psychological exam
- 26 weeks at a live-in Delaware State Police Academy in Dover, DE with a successful completion
- 8 weeks in the field officer training program which may or may not be extended.
- 1 year of probation from date of graduation from the DSP Academy
- Required yearly mandated training:
 - Firearms re-qualifications three (3) times per year to include one night-time qualification passing all three.
 - Yearly taser re-qualification
 - Yearly first aid/CPR AED certification
 - 16 hours of mandated training by the Delaware Council on Police Training
 - Any training as mandated by departmental needs, which far surpasses state mandated training



Although our testing process is a lengthy process of elimination, we want the best possible candidate to proceed in hopes of success. We are not just the police department; we are the City of Seaford Police Department, We are your police department. We strive for the best candidate to serve your needs. We must work together to make the City of Seaford a career goal for employment.

The City of Seaford Announces the Winner of its 2015 Earth Day Tree Raffle

The City of Seaford congratulates Debi Thomas for winning the City's 2015 Earth Day Tree raffle! In a kind gesture, Debi chose to donate her tree to the city in the memory of her husband, R. Richard Thomas, Sr. who recently passed away on May 12, 2015. The Amanogawa Japanese Flowering Cherry tree will be planted on High Street in Downtown Seaford.

The City of Seaford raffles shade trees because they 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 energy 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 2015 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. The City of Seaford provided a display at the city hall 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, and 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, and

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, and

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



Left to Right: Seaford Mayor David Genshaw; Earth Day Tree Winner Debi Thomas; Seaford City Manager Dolores Slatcher.

DEMEC was formed in 1979 as a public corporation constituted as a Joint Action Agency and a wholesale electric utility. DEMEC represents and serves the nine municipal electric distribution utilities located in the State of Delaware. Members of DEMEC are the cities and towns of Clayton, Dover, Middletown, Milford, New Castle, Newark, Seaford and Smyrna. Collectively, they serve over 126,000 residents and businesses in their respective communities. In total DEMEC's Members have a peak load of over 450 Megawatts. DEMEC is a generation owner and the PJM Load Serving Entity ("LSE") for eight of these municipal utilities (except Dover) and provides 100% of their wholesale power supply requirements.

City of Seaford

FY2016 Budget Information

The FY 2016 Budget was approved by Mayor & Council on June 9, 2015.

There were no rate increases included in the budget.

All rates remain the same as the prior year except for the electric rates.

The electric rates reflect an overall 2.5 percent decrease in the City's revenue and are effective with the July 2015 consumption.

Customers will see a reduction in the kwh charge and an increase in the customer charge.

However, there is an overall rate reduction for each class of customer.

**CITY OF SEAFORD
BUDGET/REVENUE ANALYSIS
BUDGET ADOPTED 06/09/2015**

	FY 2015	FY 2016	% CHANGE	\$ INCR/ DECR
<u>REVENUE</u>				
General Fund	5,758,045	5,879,043	2.10%	120,998
Transfer from Electric Fund	3,054,956	2,731,660	-10.58%	(323,296)
Transfer from Sewer Fund	99,092	100,000	0.92%	908
Transfer from Water Fund	4,138	177,644	4192.99%	173,506
Municipal Golf Fund	505,000	0	-100.00%	(505,000)
Transfer from General Fund	512,520	454,204	-11.38%	(58,316)
Transfer from Electric Fund	0	0	0.00%	0
Water Fund	1,020,201	1,317,418	29.13%	297,217
Transfer from Electric	0	0	0.00%	0
Sewer Fund	2,929,629	2,551,785	-12.90%	(377,844)
Transfer from Electric	0	0	0.00%	0
Electric Fund	15,719,579	15,365,040	-2.26%	(354,539)
TOTAL REVENUE	29,603,160	28,576,794	-3.47%	(1,026,366)
REVENUE W/O INTERNAL TRANSFER	25,932,454	25,113,286	-3.16%	(819,168)

EXPENDITURES

Executive	107,264	115,921	8.07%	8,657
Administration	1,816,537	1,741,932	-4.11%	(74,605)
Capital	24,895	17,500	-29.70%	(7,395)
Transfer to Golf Fund	512,520	454,204	-11.38%	(58,316)
Economic Development	109,714	127,578	16.28%	17,864
Capital	3,000	6,500	116.67%	3,500
Code	410,750	321,163	-21.81%	(89,587)
Capital	11,080	29,500	166.25%	18,420
Fire	272,375	273,707	0.49%	1,332
Capital	0	0	0.00%	0
Police	3,593,641	3,681,980	2.46%	88,339
Capital	60,000	72,000	20.00%	12,000
Dispatchers	601,745	630,808	4.83%	29,063
Capital	0	0	0.00%	0
Recreation	217,347	214,611	-1.26%	(2,736)
Capital	1,400	1,400	0.00%	0
Parks	540,430	496,105	-8.20%	(44,325)
Capital	26,161	0	-100.00%	(26,161)
Pools	25,712	25,630	-0.32%	(82)
Capital	0	0	0.00%	0
Streets	468,660	477,808	1.95%	9,148
Capital	113,000	200,000	76.99%	87,000
EXPENDITURES SUBTOTAL	8,916,231	8,888,347	-0.31%	(27,884)

Municipal Golf Capital	1,017,520 0	454,204 0	-55.36% 0.00%	(563,316) 0
Water Capital	935,713 80,350	1,011,016 128,758	8.05% 60.25%	75,303 48,408
Transfer to General Fund	4,138	177,644	4192.99%	173,506
Sewer Collector System Capital	388,360 534,906	437,494 0	12.65% -100.00%	49,134 (534,906)
Sewer Plant Capital	1,678,001 34,300	1,772,676 10,100	5.64% -70.55%	94,675 (24,200)
Transfer to General Fund	99,092	100,000	0.92%	908
Compost Capital	179,970 15,000	213,515 18,000	18.64% 20.00%	33,545 3,000
Electric Distribution Capital	12,449,600 215,023	12,421,980 211,400	-0.22% -1.68%	(27,620) (3,623)
Transfer to General Fund	3,054,956	2,731,660	-10.58%	(323,296)
Transfer to Golf Course Fund	0	0	0.00%	0
Transfer to Water Fund	0	0	0.00%	0
Transfer to Sewer Fund	0	0	0.00%	0
Power House Capital	0 0	0 0	0.00% 0.00%	0 0
EXPENDITURES - SUBTOTAL	20,686,929	19,688,447	-4.83%	(998,482)
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	29,603,160	28,576,794	-3.47%	(1,026,366)
EXPENDITURES W/O INTERNAL TRANSFER	25,932,454	25,113,286	-3.16%	(819,168)
Total Revenues without Internal Transfers	25,932,454	25,113,286	-3.16%	(819,168)
Total Expenditures without Internal Transfers	25,932,454	25,113,286	-3.16%	(819,168)
Surplus (Deficit)	0	0	0.00%	0
Note: Purchased Power Electric Distribution	10,042,196	10,063,085	0.21%	20,889
Note: Electric Distribution without Purchased Power	2,407,404	2,358,895	-2.01%	(48,509)