

SLAUGHTER BEACH 2014 ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

April 2014

357 Bay Avenue / Slaughter Beach DE 19963-4911 / www.slaughterbeach.delaware.gov

SPRING 2014

Hello to all! It's been a long cold winter even here at the beach. We had some wonderful new visitors this winter – snowy owls. Hopefully spring is well on its way and another summer season will be enjoyed by all!

Slaughter Beach continues to move forward and prepare for the future while at the same time holding onto the qualities that make us special. Nothing can stay the same and be sustainable, and we must adapt to the ever changing environment, if even ever so subtly. Contained within this newsletter you will see how the Town Council, with the help of many involved residents, is attempting to do just that. We strive to be the best we can with the resources available to us today.

Our Town was founded 333 years ago and I'm sure that over that time adversities were encountered which seemed insurmountable but our predecessors persevered, as we will for future generations to come.

*Check out our new website at:
www.slaughterbeach.delaware.gov*

NEWS

The Town Website – The new Slaughter Beach website is up and running. Please check it out at www.slaughterbeach.delaware.gov. This website is the result of a free program offered to municipalities by the Delaware State Government Information Center. Please be sure to visit it and check out its new look and new features. We encourage you to become familiar with the sections regarding Building Permits and the National Flood Insurance Program.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Spring 2014	1
News	1
Annual Events	2
Town Meetings and Elections	3
Trash Collection, Recycling and Yard Waste	3
Mosquito Control	4
Town Projects	4
Reminders	5
Thanks and Welcome	8

DuPont Nature Center – The Nature center is a wonderful place to visit, especially with children or grandchildren. Saturday, May 17th they will host the Peace, Love, & Horseshoe Crab Festival from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Mark your calendars for some fun! Please sign up with them to volunteer. Be sure to let Dawn know you are from Slaughter Beach.

Delaware Nature Society – provides programs within our Town at their property at the Marvel Tract and on the beach to educate school children and others on the diverse environments and wildlife habitats we sometimes take for granted. This summer they hope to hold some nature programs here, in conjunction with the town. They have many programs and activities for folks of all ages at their facilities; check out their website at www.delawarenaturesociety.org. Jason Beale is our contact with the Nature Society.

Resident's Sailboats – can be put in and out of the water from Delaware Ave North and Sussex Ave at seasons start and end, or whenever an impending storm threatens. Four-wheel drive vehicles can carefully back down onto the beach for this purpose only. Please keep off the beach grass; close the barricade at end of street when done; and be respectful of the neighbors. These streets are being used because they are the ones used by DNREC and emergency vehicles.

ANNUAL EVENTS

YARD SALE

The annual Town Yard Sale will be held over the Memorial Day weekend starting Friday, May 23, and ending Monday, May 26, 2014. The event will be advertised in a local newspaper and on the Town website. If it rains for more than 2 consecutive days, the sale will be held the following weekend.

ANNUAL LARGE ITEM PICK-UP

Large Item Pick-up will be on Monday, June 2, 2014. Place items next to your regular trash. Any items (e.g., refrigerators, freezers, A/Cs) which may contain refrigerant (Freon) must bear an official tag stating it has been removed. This service is meant to help you get rid of difficult to dispose of items from your Slaughter Beach property.

INDEPENDENCE DAY EVENT

The 6th annual Slaughter Beach Sail Club (SBSC) July 4th Regatta will be held again this year, on the actual 4th of July. The race is on a Friday this year, and the almanac tells us that we are to have perfect winds. High tide rolls in at about 2:45 PM on the 4th, which will allow us to have a nice 1:00 PM start to all of the festivities.

Where: It will start pretty much at the center of our lovely beach at the intersection of Delaware Avenue North and the beach.

Cost: No cost for entry in any of the events

What: The event committee has determined that we will follow a similar event schedule as 2013, which consists of 4 different events/races: Kids race, Kayak race, Mono-hull, and Multi-hull race.

- ✓ **Kids Race:** Kids of all ages are welcome, but the participants will be limited to under 13 years old.
- ✓ **Kayak race:** All types of kayaks will be welcome and a race course map to be provided immediately prior to the race. Singles and doubles are welcome.

- ✓ **Mono-hull race:** Typically a sunfish type boat is used, but this is a "run what you bring" race, so all manner of small, single hull boats are welcome. Only official rule is that the boat must be a centerboard type boat. Race course map to be provided just prior to race.
- ✓ **Multi-hull race:** All manner of catamaran, tri-hull and outrigger boats are welcome. Only official rule is that no daggerboard styles are allowed. Race course will be same as mono-hulls, but number of laps to be determined just prior to the race.
- Participant ringers are welcome, but may be forced to take on extra passengers. Experienced sailors are welcome, but you will be one of the few in attendance.
- Not a sailor? Come out anyway and bring your chairs, towels and refreshments to cheer your favorite sailor on. As you can see, all manner of ages and sailors are welcome.
- This is a fun day at the beach and you get to meet or re-meet many of your neighbors and friends.
- Should you have any questions or want to assist in set up or tear down, manning the hot dog "stand" or just be of general assist, please contact: Harry Ward- Slaughter Beach Sail Club Commodore at 09sbsc@gmail.com

Once again, there will NOT be a fireworks display at Slaughter Beach as the State Fire Marshall has determined that conditions are not safe on the beach. Remember, state law prohibits setting your own fireworks.



COMMUNITY SOCIAL HOUR

The 1st Friday of June, July, August & September at 5 p.m. there will be a gathering at our town pavilion for residents to socialize, meet & greet with one another in an informal public environment. Come join in the fun and socialize with your fellow Slaughter Beachers. Bring an appetizer or snack for the table if you'd like. Last year we didn't have the turn out hoped for, but the consensus is to give it another try this year. Please come help promote community spirit and friendships! Come one, come all! This event will be what we make it.

TOWN MEETINGS AND ELECTIONS

We welcome and encourage all town residents to attend our Town Council meetings. Meetings are held the 2nd Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room on the 2nd floor of the Memorial Volunteer Fire Company. The access door is on the south side of the building. The **Annual Town meeting** will be held on **Saturday, June 7, 2014, at 4:00 pm.**

If necessary, the Town Council Election will be held on Saturday, July 5, 2014 from 10:00 am. – Noon in the fire hall. This year the terms of Dan McCarthy, Diane Kelly, and Amy Parker will expire. Anyone desiring to run for one of these seats should obtain and file a Certificate of Intent with the town clerk. **The deadline for filing is Monday, June 9th, at 4:30 p.m.**

To be eligible, you must either be a property owner or have lived full-time in the Town for the six months immediately prior to the election, and be at least 21 years of age. See the Town Charter on our new website for more details.

TRASH COLLECTION, RECYCLING AND YARD WASTE

TRASH PICKUP

Regular trash pickup is every Monday morning year round. Please place your trash in proper containers. Please note this service is not for vehicle parts, tires or construction debris. Disposal of these items is still the responsibility of the individual property owner.

YARD WASTE

As of January 1, 2011, the Delaware Solid Waste Authority ordered the Sussex County landfill to stop taking yard waste. Yard waste is defined as "all plant materials resulting from lawn maintenance and landscaping activities. These include grass clippings, leaves, prunings, brush, shrubs, garden materials, Christmas trees, and tree limbs up to 4 inches in diameter". Remember yard waste can no longer be co-mingled with regular trash. Residents are encouraged to compost their yard waste and are reminded that it is illegal to dispose of it on the dunes or in the marsh. Yard waste can also be hauled locally to Blessings on Draper Rd.

UNIVERSAL RECYCLING

Curbside recycling for our Town began the first week in September, 2011 with pick-up being every other week throughout the year. Each residence was provided with a 65 gallon recycling cart. Included with this newsletter is a list of acceptable items for recycling. Please don't have loose items in your recycling that can blow out when the can is mechanically dumped, wrap things in bags please. For additional information go to- www.dswa.com.

MOSQUITO CONTROL

If mosquitoes are unbearable in your part of town, please contact Councilperson, Jackson Gingrich, at: (302) 265-2258 or jbgingrich@comcast.net and leave a message with your Slaughter Beach address and telephone number. He will contact Mosquito Control to request spraying. Once contacted, a Mosquito Control representative will be sent to determine if spraying is necessary. If warranted, it may take up to a week before the spraying is done. Also, please keep in mind that Slaughter Beach has mosquitoes and we're asking that you report only higher than normal populations.

ON-GOING PROJECTS

FEMA'S COMMUNITY ACTION VISIT (CAV)

The Town Council, Building Inspector/Floodplain Manager, and Town Clerk have been working diligently to satisfy all FEMA requirements. Though not completed, we are well on the way. Staying current with FEMA and the NFIP (National Flood Insurance Program) is a top priority for the Town and requires a lot of work. Every resident should care about the Town's standing with FEMA and NFIP.

TOWN ZONING ORDINANCE (SBZO), FLOODPLAIN ORDINANCE, AND COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN (CLUP)

These items are tied together and will be completed as simultaneously as possible.

***SBZO amending** is nearing its final stages. There was a special meeting held on April 1st with Council and the town attorney. Residents will be notified by U.S. mail and/or email when the public hearing to review the proposed final changes is scheduled.

***Floodplain Ordinance** – This will be updated as required by Federal Emergency Management

Agency (FEMA). DNREC will hold workshops with the Town and Sussex County to facilitate this process. Residents will be notified when public hearings are scheduled.

***CLUP** – The Town is in the process of updating the Comprehensive Land Use Plan as required by State law. We are working with the Office of State Planning Coordination as part of the re-certification process.

GRANTS

***Wastewater Treatment Feasibility Study:** In September 2013, Delaware's Sea Level Rise Advisory Committee released "*Preparing for Tomorrow's High Tide*", a report intended to assist local and state governments to prepare for sea level rise. One of the recommendations contained in the report is to "Facilitate the connection of individual septic systems to community wastewater treatment systems with excess capacity when human safety and welfare are at risk". Because salt water intrusion causes septic systems to prematurely fail and because many of the Town's septic systems were flooded during Hurricane Sandy and in recent nor'easters, the Town applied for and was awarded two grants totaling \$30,000. The will fully fund a wastewater treatment feasibility study. The firm of Davis, Bowen & Friedel (DBF) will perform the study and determine if it is financially viable for the Town to tie-in to an existing wastewater treatment facility. DBF will work with sewer utility providers in Sussex County, the City of Milford, and Kent County, to determine the best possible option. Different routes will be evaluated for transmitting the waste and construction estimates will be developed. At the completion of the study, the Town will have a better understanding of wastewater treatment options; know the costs associated with each option, and be better positioned to compete for future grants.

***The Phragmites Control Program Grant** – We are hopeful that Federal funding to DE Forestry Service will again be available this year. Anyone who has previously signed a contract will be included in this year's spraying in the fall. If you are enrolled in the program, please do not cut down any live phragmites because spraying will not be effective. Any property owner who wants to be included or would like additional information should contact the Town office.

***Beach Replenishment** – when will that occur? – the million dollar question! The Delaware Work Study Group, after years of meetings, has no definite plans nor has it identified how to pay for the Delaware Bay beach communities' replenishment. Read more at www.dnrec.state.de.us. There is some discussion that our beach might be replenished concurrently with the repair of the breach at Fowler's Beach.

***Electronic Radar Sign** – The Town purchased another electronic radar sign with some of the funds awarded through the Sussex County Shared Grant program. There are four locations within town where the sign can be mounted. We hope that all will pay attention to this sign and curtail their speed accordingly.

***Town Park** – The Town has applied for a grant to help pay for repaving the tennis court and upgrading the park! If the grant application is successful, the State will pay for one-half of the \$31,000 estimated cost.

***Town Streets** – we continue to improve the streets as needed and monies allow.

DELAWARE ALLIANCE OF BAY COMMUNITIES (ABC)

The Town continues to work in conjunction with ABC to address coastal issues and to advocate for responsible stewardship all along the Delaware Bay Watershed. Of utmost importance is fixing the breach at the Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge (PHNWR) at Fowlers Beach.

THE DELAWARE BAYSHORE INITIATIVE

The Town is participating in this program which

was kicked off here on May, 12, 2012 and is part of the national vision for America's Great Outdoors. The Bayshore Initiative goals are conservation, low impact recreation, & stronger communities. The Town continues to support this project in its infancy. Follow the town minutes for occasional updates about this initiative. Read more at www.dnrec.delaware.gov/Pages/Delaware-Bayshore.aspx.

REMINDERS

SPEEDING

Since speeding remains a problem within Town limits, the Town will once again contract with the Delaware State Police for radar patrols. Fellow residents, please give our children, our habitat, and your wallet a break by obeying the speed limit. We additionally hope you will pay attention to our Radar signs that are positioned throughout the town, and slow down. Driving responsibly protects us all– young and old.

BUILDING PERMITS

Our Building Inspector is Bob Clendaniel. He may be reached through his email address, sbbuildinginspector@comcast.net or via his cell at 302-270-0687. If you are planning any additions, improvements, remodeling or repair work to your property, please contact him to find out if a permit is required. Remember, there are Town, Sussex County, DNREC, and FEMA regulations that must be followed or work will be halted. It is not the Town's intent to restrict what building activities residents want to do but instead to assist you and guide you in doing them correctly. This practice will in turn better ensure compliance with all the government agencies involved.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

Presently each council member acts as code enforcer as needed. To this end, our contact information is listed on the last page of this newsletter. Please remember we are not the

Police or the dog catcher. Also please make contact during normal business hours. If an emergency arises, please call 911. If there is a problem with a neighbor, please try and work it out with your neighbor. The codes are to make all our lives more enjoyable and to enhance life within our town. They will be enforced evenly across the board. Please respect the rights of others as you'd like to be respected.

BONFIRES

Only residents are allowed to build a bonfire on the beach. Before proceeding, check with the Memorial Volunteer Fire Company (422-8888) to see what burn bans may be in effect. Please use your good judgment and don't have a fire if the wind is blowing. Stay clear of dune grass and do not leave the fire unattended. When you are finished, extinguish the fire, completely cover all ashes, and clean up all debris before leaving.

PARKING

The Town Council is asking citizens not to disturb or remove the survey monuments that have been placed at the corners of each street and remind you that doing so is illegal. Also, please remember that all Slaughter Beach residents must supply parking for their personal vehicles on their own lot. Overnight *parking on the public streets is not allowed under our Town Ordinance*. Placement of anything permanent or semi-permanent on the street is not allowed.

PUBLIC RESTROOMS

This year the restrooms will be open daily from April 1st through October 31 (weather permitting). The hours will be 7 a.m. – 8 p.m. Monday– Sunday; except on Tuesday mornings when they open at 8 a.m.

DOGS

Town Ordinance states the following: "The owner

of any dog within the Town shall keep the same securely upon his own premises or under the direct and immediate control of the said owner or some other person by means of physical restraint (leash, cord, chain, rope or fence) or by training and audible or visual command. Rental property owners are responsible for conveying these rules to their tenants, please be a good neighbor!

Please don't allow your barking dog to bother your neighbors. To report issues with dogs, including animal welfare complaints, please contact Delaware Animal Care & Control at 888-352-7722. Complaints about noise/barking dogs are governed by the Delaware Noise Control Act, Del. Code Title 7, Chapter 71, and should be directed to the appropriate local or State law enforcement agency.

ROADSIDE AND BEACH TRASH

Please help keep our roadways and beach clean, especially those coming into town and those surrounding us– Lighthouse, Fowler Rds.

LOCAL HABITAT

Each spring, we have our own "tourists" who can use a helping hand.

**Baby Diamondback Terrapin* turtles are emerging from the sand and crossing to the marsh. Keep an eye on the road for them.

**Nesting Female Diamondbacks* are moving from the marsh to the beach. If you move them from the road, move them in the direction they are going.

**Shorebirds* have started to arrive. Please keep a distance, especially with dogs, so they can feed and be on their way.

**Horseshoe Crabs* are returning. Please flip them so they can crawl safely back to the water. If you find one with a tag, call the number listed and please DO NOT remove the tag.

Beach Grass

Beach grass can be purchased from Cape Farms in Lewes (945-1840) or from Lord's Landscaping in Millville (539-6119). DNREC has determined that the best planting times are between March 15 and April 15 as this gives the highest survival rate. Literature on the planting and care of beach grass can be obtained from Jackson Gingrich.

Black Pines

We are experiencing an epidemic of black pines dying. Once they are dead, they should be removed and completely cut down to the root line in order to prevent the disease that has killed the tree to infect healthy trees. More information can be obtained from Jackson Gingrich.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Citizens willing to donate their time are needed for the following projects:

*2014 Annual Slaughter Beach **Horseshoe Crab Spawning Survey** dates are in May and June. Please see Bill Rafter at the Slaughter Beach Mini Mart for details. A training session will be held on April 26 @ 4- 5 p.m. on Marvel Drive. Please register for training with Bill if interested. Or for more information or to register for training, you can also contact Elliott Workman, Abbott's Mill Nature Center @ 422-0847 or via email at Elliott@delawarenaturesociety.org.

Stranded Marine Mammals

The MERR Institute has the mission of rescuing and rehabilitating stranded sea mammals and sea turtles that might be injured on the beach. They also collect the remains of newly dead sea mammals for necropsy in order to determine cause of death. They can be reached at 228-5029.

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

www.dnrec.delaware.gov

www.horseshoecrab.org

www.merrinstitute.org

www.memorialfire89.com

www.dswa.com

www.delabc.com

www.delawarenaturesociety.org

www.dswa.com/programs_yard.asp

www.dnrec.delaware.gov/Pages/Delaware-Bavshore.aspx

TOWN OFFICE

If you need to speak with a town official please call the town office at (302) 424-7659 and leave a message, use the town e-mail address townofslughterbeach@comcast.net, or use the contact information below.

The Town Council strives to provide a welcoming, collaborative, atmosphere to all agencies and entities it must work with, along with you our residents. Please feel free to contact council members with any questions, concerns, or suggestions you may have.

IMPORTANT REQUEST

The Town Council requests that you sign up to receive pertinent emails to the residents: town updates, announcements, hurricane and storm warnings, briefs and updates, thefts in town, road construction, etc. Additionally, if a neighbor or fellow resident notices something unusual at your residence this is a timely way in which to contact you. Please use the following email address - slaughterbeachsignup@comcast.net. **Please** include your name, Slaughter Beach address and email address and phone number. Your email information will not be shared with anyone or used for any other purpose than to relay town business.

THANKS' and WELCOME

The Town could not function without the benefit of many residents who have spent countless hours, often on a volunteer basis, serving the residents. Below is a list of residents or contractors that we would like to thank for their extraordinary service to the Town of Slaughter Beach. We would like to thank all outgoing and past council members, along with all appointees and others who lend their talents to benefit the Town.

Town Auditor – Ruth Ann Beideman has decided to retire after serving our community for decades. She has worked tirelessly and admirably and we sincerely thank her for her many years of service and dedication. She was replaced by Sombar & Company, a C.P.A. firm located in Georgetown. Sombar will conduct occasional audits and provide financial advice. Additionally, Jennifer Cornell was hired as the Town bookkeeper. Jennifer will assist us in bringing the Town into the 21st century. She's a Quickbooks professional and has a B.S. in accounting. She worked as Director of Finance for Milton, DE before starting her own firm.

Building Inspector/Floodplain Manager – Joe Hallock, husband of former Vice Mayor Janice Bergin, resigned his position shortly after moving off the beach. We thank Joe for his fine service. Bob Clendaniel, property owner and former councilman, Mayor and building inspector, has accepted this very important position. We appreciate and welcome the vast knowledge and the history he brings to the position. He is a valued addition to the team.

Tax Collector – We thank Angela Tibbett, CPA, resident of Argo's Corner, employed by Ray Book & Associates. Angela is starting her 2nd year with us and also serves as the tax collector for Bowers Beach. She lives in Argo's Corner with her husband Jim, a commercial fisherman, and their 2 children.

Town Clerk – We value and thank Kathy McFadden and appreciate all she does for the town, mostly behind the scenes. Kathy is the daughter of Helen and Charlie McFadden, long-time Slaughter Beach residents. We thank Kathy for coming aboard with her vast talents to fill this position.

Public Pavilion and Restroom Keeper – For several years, Rose Rafter has cleaned and maintained the pavilion and public restrooms. She gives special and extra attention to the appearance and upkeep of our public areas.

Town Attorney – The town continues to appreciate & benefit from the services of Hudson, Jones, Jaywork, & Fisher. Barrett Edwards serves as our town attorney with the assistance of Terry Jaywork, as needed. Barrett is a fine young man with excellent credentials.

Town Maintenance Superintendent – Local nearby resident Dean Hazzard continues in his 2nd year in this position. We are happy to have his services and appreciate his care and attention to our common areas.

Finance Committee – Resident John Lyons and Vice Mayor Bill Krause, and Town Treasurer Jackson Gingrich

Town Street Committee – Residents Jimmy Dalton (our Road Czar), John Lyons, Mike Erisman, and councilmember Jackson Gingrich

Zoning Commission – Residents Bill McSpadden, Wes Starr, and Tom Reiss

IT Committee – Residents Brenda Desjardins, Ellen Barag, & Vice Mayor Bill Krause

Board of Adjustment (BOA) – Residents Gerry Maher, Louise Sipple, and Jimmy Dalton

Board of Elections (BOE) – Residents Patti Erisman, Donna Johnson, and Mary Lyde Esposito

Phragmites Control; Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP); Beach Grass Planting; Beach Clean-up; Town Web Site – Resident Bill Mc Spadden has willingly taken on all of the above projects and has performed these tasks magnificently. We sincerely thank Bill for all he does behind the scenes to benefit our town. A **special thanks** for all your hard work on our new website, with the limited added help of Kathy McFadden, Tricia Ann Saunders and Amy Parker

Grants Committee – The grants committee is responsible for writing grant proposals and managing any grant awards. It is comprised of residents Kathy Lock, Jimmy Dalton, Cynthia Lyons and Becky Craft

Memorial Volunteer Fire Company – Bill Warner is the new President and we wish him a warm congratulations! We thank the Fire Company for their presence in Town and for the many services they provide. We further thank them for the long and historic relationship with the Town, which enables the use of their building for town meetings and business. The new electronic sign is a nice addition for all. We would also like to thank the fire company for assisting us with snow plowing this winter.

Snow Plowing – We couldn't do without the assistance of the Memorial Volunteer Fire Company, who oftentimes plow town streets. Mark Wells has also agreed to plow some streets, as needed, at a very reasonable rate.



TOWN OFFICIALS

Mayor: Dan McCarthy 424-0721(h)

Vice Mayor: Bill Krause 610-239-6796

Secretary: Diane Kelly 491-6315

Treasurer: Jackson Gingrich 265-2258(c)

Councilperson: Amy J. Reed Parker 422-5814(h)

Tax Collector: Angela Tibbitt 424-1127(h)

Building Inspector: Bob Clendaniel 270-0687(c)

Code Enforcement: presently any councilperson

Town Clerk: Kathy McFadden 424-3925