



ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2018

Message from the Mayor and Council

The council wishes to welcome all to the 2018 "start of the season". We've weathered quite a few storms this late winter and spring, but the beach seems to have come through it reasonably well, with just a bit of storm damage and loss to the beach sand. Fowler Beach and the sand replenishment within Primehook marsh seems to have held up well throughout the winter, which of course impacts our marsh level and subsequent flooding. We had no days this year where Slaughter Beach Road was impassable due to flooding. Snow was a bit of a different story as we did see significant drifting during the January storm, which made Slaughter Beach Road difficult for a few days.

Real estate in our community has seen a significant uptick in 2017 with record levels of new builds, as well as record low levels of available existing homes for sale. This is consistent with what we are seeing in the rest of DE, especially within bayside communities.

We have a number of topics and developments that are happening in our community, all of which are future looking and positive in nature:

- 1) The Mispillion Harbor work being directed by DNREC and financed by Hurricane Sandy money is just about completed after having been worked for the past two winters. In addition, the temporary sandbar that popped up at the NE end of the harbor just where the channel changes to jetty was mitigated by a joint dredging project by the Army Corps of Engineers and DNREC. Very positive news that once the bar was recognized as a hazard and the agencies were informed, the project manager and both agencies jumped in and had the issue resolved in short order. Nice to see our government agencies working together in a practical and pragmatic manner to get things done.
- 2) The Slaughter Beach Water Company has been sold to Artesian Resources, a publicly owned company in Delaware that manages the water resources for a

number of towns and cities in the greater Delaware area. The Council looks at this transaction as a positive one for our community as it allows a smooth transition and an ongoing water supply for the foreseeable future. A very large "Thank You" to Frank Draper and all that he has done for the Town both involving the Water Company and outside of the same. Expect to see the Artesian Management at an upcoming Town Council meeting as we get closer to the summer. Artesian would like to get in front of the community to highlight their company and to answer questions from all of our residents.

- 3) Again in 2018, the town purchased a significant amount of beach grass which we planted in many areas along the beach in late March. This was a volunteer effort and has significant impact on beach sand retention, especially south of the fire hall where it was most needed.
- 4) The Town is in the process of upgrading the security camera system in town. Proposals are being reviewed. The upgraded system is to be in place for the upcoming season.
- 5) The pavilion (as well as the restrooms) will be undergoing a new trim paint job as soon as weather permits.
- 6) The council is reviewing new signage for all of the access roads in order to reduce the number of negative signs and to put our community in a better visual state (with regards to signage) as well as to make our community more welcoming.
- 7) We'd also like to thank the many volunteers and staff that contribute to the welfare of the Town. From pavilion beautification, to Coastal Cleanup to beach grass planting to highway cleanup and the many other efforts that so many of you participate in. It is a fine place we live in and vacation at, and all of you volunteers make it a better place.

- 8) We encourage all residents to provide the Town office with an accurate email address. The Town employs email as a vehicle to keep our residents informed about emergency notifications, to get real-time safety information to all residents before, during and after a storm event, or to disseminate information about town events. Please sign up at slaughterbeachsignup@comcast.net. In addition, this year the Town has developed a new database, which lists all contact information for property owners. We strongly advise all owners to send in current contact information, so that we can readily contact you should any need arise. This information will be closely held, so no need to worry about the information getting into other's hands. More to come on this in a future mailing.
- 9) Please be aware that the Delaware Emergency Notification System (DENS) is a State-wide system designed to notify Delaware residents of an emergency in their area. The Sussex County Emergency Operations Center, along with the Delaware Emergency Management Agency, encourages residents who exclusively use mobile telephones to register their numbers in this state-wide database. To register your mobile telephone or VOIP phone, log onto <http://public.coderedweb.com/CNE/BF1D885328BF>. We also encourage local residents to tune into DELDOT's radio notification system at 1380 AM for current State-wide storm and traffic conditions.
- 10) Dr. Carol Meteyer, a Slaughter Beach resident and forensic veterinarian, will be conducting a study of the health of horseshoe crabs during the week of May 24th through May 29th. This study is a joint effort between The National Aquarium, Johns Hopkins, the Joint Pathology Center, Ecological Research & Development Group (ERDG), and UD Lewes. The team will examine horseshoe crabs that have flipped and are stranded on the beach for evidence of poor health and disease. Horseshoe crabs that have signs of disease will be transported to UD Lewes for further study. If you'd like to volunteer for this study, please contact Carol at hschealthstudy@gmail.com.
- 11) This past Christmas night a devastating fire destroyed 2 houses and severely damaged 3 others in the 300 block of Bay Ave. Twelve fire companies and approximately 130 firefighters responded to the blaze. The fire began on the beachfront in dune grass and due to high winds, quickly spread to nearby houses. The Council would like to remind all our residents and visitors that when dune grass and phragmites become dormant during the late fall and winter months they are highly flammable. We would also like to thank all the firefighters who gave up their Christmas dinners to help us in our time of need.

The First Annual (Run from the) Greenheads 5K Run/Walk

The town is hosting the first annual 5K run/walk scheduled for Sunday, May 6th. The theme celebrates our annual summer visitors, the infamous Greenhead flies. Runners will start at 9:00 at the Pavilion and continue north along Bay Avenue, make the turn at Beach Plum and return to the Pavilion. There will be prizes, games, and a band at the finish line, as well as goodies provided by a sponsor, Dogfish Head Brewing Company. Proceeds will go to the Delaware Nature Society and the Slaughter Beach Memorial Fire Company. Register for the race/walk at <http://www.trisportsevents.com/index.cfm?ref=50200&ref2=135>.

Please be aware that traffic on Bay Avenue will be impacted during the run/walk. We're working with DeIDOT and it's likely that at least part of the roadway will be closed to accommodate the participants. Your patience through the event is appreciated.

We're also looking for volunteers to assist with parking, prep work, etc. Please contact any Councilperson to volunteer, or please consider becoming a sponsor. Sponsorship packages are located on the town website.

The Slaughter Beach Memorial Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary will sell picnic type food items such as hamburgers, hotdogs, etc. Fun-filled family activities are planned for that day, and we look forward to seeing you there.

Marvel Saltmarsh Preserve Boardwalk

The Delaware Department of Transportation, DNREC's Division of Fish and Wildlife, DNREC's Department of Parks and Recreation, and DNREC's Delaware Bayshore Byway have joined together to fund the construction of a boardwalk into the Marvel Saltmarsh Preserve (entrance across from Marvel Avenue). We will announce a groundbreaking ceremony later this spring, with construction to begin once the Ospreys have left their nests and construction in the marsh is permitted.

July 4th Regatta

The Slaughter Beach Sail Club is holding its 10th annual Regatta on Tuesday, July 4th at 12:00 noon. It will be held at Delaware Avenue, North.

Yard Sale

The annual Memorial Day town yard sale is scheduled for Saturday, May 26th, 2018. This is a shortened sale period, in the hopes of driving a lot of traffic for that day alone. You are all (pf course) allowed to carry the sale on extra days, should you wish to do so, independently. The event will be advertised in a local newspaper and on the Town website.

Annual Large Item Pickup

Large Item Pick-up is scheduled for Tuesday, May 29, 2018. Place items next to your regular trash. Any items containing refrigerant (refrigerators, freezers, A/Cs) must bear an official tag stating that the refrigerant has been removed.

DuPont Nature Center (DNC)

The Nature Center is a wonderful place to visit, especially with children or grandchildren. It is open weekends in April. Then beginning May 1st, it will be open Tuesday thru Sunday, 10 AM to 4 PM till September 1, at which time it will be open weekends only till October 31.

The Center is conveniently located next to Slaughter Beach at the end of Lighthouse Road. Admission to the

Center and programs are offered to the public free of charge.

Saturday, May 20th DNC will host the 8th Annual Peace, Love and Horseshoe Crab Festival from 10 AM to 3 PM. Mark your calendars for some fun!

While you are at the Center exploring all that is there, be sure to stop by to view the live feeds from the two nature cameras. One is solar powered and focuses on the annual Horseshoe crab/shorebird phenomenon while the other, new this year, is mounted on an Osprey nesting platform.

Staff and volunteers at the Center also conduct several informative programs for folks of all ages. The Center is a true asset to our community and sure to provide many "wow" moments for you, your family and friends. For further information, please contact Lynne Pusey, Director, or her staff at 302-422-1329.

Delaware Nature Society (DNS)

DNS provides educational programs at the Marvel Salt Marsh Preserve to educate school children about the diverse environments and wildlife habitats in our town. As previously mentioned, the Town is partnering with DNS to design and build a boardwalk and observation deck for these educational programs.

Council Meetings

We welcome and encourage all town residents to attend our Town Council meetings, held the 2nd Monday of every month at 7:00 PM 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 2nd at the fire hall at 12 noon.

Annual Town Meeting

The annual town meeting will be held on Saturday, June 2, 2018 at 10:00 A.M. at the Slaughter Beach Memorial Fire Hall, second floor.

Election Information

The Town Council seats held by Kathleen Lock, Ken Lewis and Robert Wood expire this year. Each seat is for a term of two years. If you're interested in running for office, please file a Notice of Intent with accompanying affidavit that you meet the qualifications for office at the town office located at 357 Bay Ave. Please request a form by either calling (302) 424-7659 or by emailing townofslaughterbeach@comcast.net. The deadline for filing is June 1st at 5:00 p.m. If more than one person files for each open seat, an election will take place on July 7, 2018 at the fire hall. Polls will be open from 8:00 AM to 12 noon.

Qualifications for office:

- You must be at least 21 years of age;
- not have been convicted of a felony or crime of moral turpitude;
- be a citizen of the United States as of June 30, 2018;
- have been either domiciled in Slaughter Beach or a freeholder (property owner) in Slaughter Beach since January 1, 2018.

Voter Qualifications:

Any person shall be qualified to vote who, on the date of the election:

- Is a United States citizen;
- Is eighteen (18) years of age or older;
- Has for not less than thirty (30) consecutive days preceding the date of the election, been either
 - (a) a freeholder in the town (defined as a natural person who holds title to or a life estate, in and real property located within the Town boundaries)

OR

- (b) has been domiciled in the Town (defined as physically residing in town and has his/her true, fixed, and permanent home and principal establishment in the town of Slaughter Beach).

Please note that if property ownership is held by an LLC, corporation, or other similar artificial entity, the property is not held by a "natural person" and individuals with an ownership interest in the LLC, corporation, or other similar entity would not qualify to vote as freeholders. However, those individuals might qualify to vote if they are domiciled in town.

The most recent Sussex County Property Tax records available as of May 1st shall be considered proof of ownership for all individuals identified in those records as Slaughter Beach property owners (FREEHOLDERS). A Supplemental List of Property Owners will be created for those property owners not on the Sussex County Property Tax records who can provide the Town with proof of ownership. Both lists shall be available for review by potential voters. Property owners may submit a request to the Town via telephone or electronic mail to ascertain whether or not they are listed on the Sussex County Property Tax records or the Supplemental List of Property Owners. All individuals will be required to provide proof of identity to vote OR are personally identified by a majority of election officers in the polling place who can attest to a voter's identity and address. Please refer to the Town website for additional information regarding voting and for a list of the documents that will serve to identify each voter.

Absentee Ballots:

Any individual wishing to vote by absentee ballot must request a ballot by filing an affidavit of qualifications with the Town no later than 12:00 PM (noon) June 25th. Absentee ballots may be requested through the town website, or by writing to the Town at 357 Bay Ave, Slaughter Beach, DE 19963-4909, or by telephone at (302) 424-7659, or by sending an email to townofslaughterbeach@comcast.net. Individuals who have requested an absentee ballot will not be permitted to vote by machine on the day of the election.

Town Officials

Mayor	Harry Ward	(302) 422-0894
Vice Mayor	Ken Lewis	(302) 491-4156
Secretary	Bob Wood	(302) 228-2374
Treasurer	Kathy Lock	(302) 422-5234

Councilperson	Rebecca Craft	(302) 632-3156
Tax Collector	Angela Tibbitt	(302) 424-1127
Code Enforcement	Bob Clendaniel	(302) 270-0687
Town Clerk	Kathy McFadden	(302) 424-3925