



# ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

# APRIL 2019

## Message from the Mayor and Council

The Slaughter Beach Town Council wishes to welcome all to the 2019 "summer season". We weathered a mild but wet winter with the beach holding up pretty well. We have had no days this winter where our access roads were impassable due to flooding.

Real estate in our community has seen a significant uptick in 2018 with another year of record levels of new builds, as well as continued 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, as well as the desire for northeast retirees to move to our lovely state, county and community.

We have the usual number of topics this year, as well as new developments that are happening in our community, all of which we are so proud of, as they are quite positive:

- 1) Again in 2019, 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. In addition, DNREC brought in volunteers and planted quite a bit of "state sponsored beach grass", south of the firehall.
- 2) The Town went through a change in trash pickup date in January. It has not been without some difficulty. The new pickup date is Friday, with recyclables still being picked up every other week, on Friday as well. When the contract is reviewed in mid-year, we will look to bid this out and hope to get back to a Monday pickup.
- 3) The interior of the public restrooms, as well as the entrance signs will be undergoing a new paint job as soon as weather permits.
- 4) The council is reviewing new signage designs for all 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.
- 5) We have added a new osprey nest at the north end of Bay Avenue, near the "Y" for Beach Plum. We hope it will soon be occupied with new residents.
- 6) In conjunction with the new marsh boardwalk and scenic overlook at Marvel Ave, we have upgraded Marvel Avenue with a base of stone "crush and run", compacted to support the bus traffic we will see with the expanded number of local children that will be visiting the site. The official ribbon cutting and opening of the site occurred on April 12<sup>th</sup>, with many state, local and federal dignitaries attending to "show off" our little piece of heaven.
- 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 continue to encourage all residents to provide the Town office with an accurate email address. Thus far, we have many of you signed up, but we still are missing some 25+% of property owners with only a billing 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](mailto:slaughterbeachsignup@comcast.net). In addition, in 2017, the Town 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.

- 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) Our Town's financial position continues to move forward positively, with a strong balance sheet and additional "rainy day" funds in our general fund. We encourage all to attend the yearly Town Meeting and monthly Council meetings for more details.
- 11) As our Town continues to be more and more attractive to day and weekly visitors, we find many who bring their pets to our community. This is lovely and the vast majority of visitors (and property owners) keep their animals under control and pick up after them. However, we have seen an uptick in people who do not pick up after their animals. We all want a clean environ to live and play in. If you should see this behavior, please feel free to respectfully point out to them, that it is their responsibility to pick up after their pet(s).

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

The town is hosting the first annual 5K run/walk scheduled for Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. The theme celebrates our annual summer visitors, the infamous Greenhead flies, and since the race falls on Cinco de Mayo this year, we've had a lot of fun planning for the race. 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 The Four Amigos band will play at the finish line. This year we've

added Titos Beverage to our sponsor list, and they're providing adult beverages in conjunction with beverages provided by Dogfish Head Brewing Company.

We're proud to announce that proceeds will stay in our community with 100% of net proceeds going to the Slaughter Beach Memorial Fire Company. Register for the race/walk at <http://www.trisportevents.com/index.cfm?ref=50200&ref2=135>.

Please be aware that traffic on Bay Avenue will be impacted during the run/walk. DelDOT issued a permit for southbound Bay Avenue to close to accommodate the participants. Your patience throughout the event is appreciated.

We're also looking for volunteers to assist with parking, prep work, etc. If you're interesting in pitching in, you can contact any council person, or sign up at [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe\\_tmJpGV5w8UWyaXLYxEvrvG4sHphxY\\_ZZIPCnB38RMksLA/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe_tmJpGV5w8UWyaXLYxEvrvG4sHphxY_ZZIPCnB38RMksLA/viewform).

Fun-filled family activities, including pie eating contests, donut eating contests, one-legged races, potato sack races, pinatas (for adults and kids), and numerous other activities are planned for that day, weather permitting, and we look forward to seeing you there.

## Marvel Saltmarsh Preserve Boardwalk

The Town of Slaughter Beach, 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 as well as Delaware Nature Society, and many private concerns, all joined together to fund the construction of the boardwalk into the Marvel Saltmarsh Preserve (entrance across from Marvel Avenue). Please visit this lovely new area and enjoy.

## July 4th Regatta

The Slaughter Beach Sail Club is holding its 11th annual Regatta on Thursday, July 4th at 10:00 AM. It will be held at Delaware Avenue, North.

## Yard Sale

The annual Memorial Day town yard sale is scheduled for Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019. This is a shortened sale period, in the hopes of driving a lot of traffic for that day alone. You are all (of course) permitted 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

The annual large item pickup is scheduled for Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup>. 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. Please note that the trash haulers will not pick up construction waste.

## New Annual – Yard Waste – Dropoff

This year, we are offering a new service to the community, courtesy of our local District 36 Congressman, Bryan Shupe's budget. We will be placing a large dumpster at Delaware Ave, North from May 17<sup>th</sup> to May 21<sup>st</sup> for yard waste ONLY. If we find that trash is left at or in the dumpster, we will not be able to offer this in the future, so please only bring yard waste materials.

## DuPont Nature Center (DNC)

The Nature Center is a wonderful place to visit, especially with children or grandchildren. It is open Wednesdays and Saturdays in April. Then beginning May 1<sup>st</sup>, it will be open Tuesday thru Sunday, 10 AM to 4 PM till September 1, at which time it will be Wednesdays and Saturdays until October 1 when it will close for the season.

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 18<sup>th</sup> DNC will host the annual Peace, Love and Horseshoe Crab Festival from noon 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 partnered with DNS to design and build a boardwalk and observation deck for these educational programs.

The Delaware Nature Society will once again be coordinating the annual Slaughter Beach horseshoe crab spawning survey. For more information or to register for training, please contact Elliott Workman, or Matt Babbitt at Abbott's Mill Nature Center at (302) 422-0847.

## 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.

## Annual Town Meeting

The annual town meeting will be held on Saturday, June 1, 2019 at 10:00 A.M. at the Slaughter Beach Memorial Fire Hall, second floor.

## Election Information

The Town Council seats held by Harry Ward & Becky Craft 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 May 31st at 5:00 p.m. If more than one person files for each open seat, an election will take place on July 6, 2019 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, 2019;
- have been either domiciled in Slaughter Beach or a freeholder (property owner) in Slaughter Beach since January 1, 2019.

### 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 24th. 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	Secretary	Rebecca Craft	(302) 632-3156
Vice Mayor	Ken Lewis	(302) 491-4156	Tax Collector	Angela Tibbitt	(302) 424-1127
Councilman	Bob Wood	(302) 228-2374	Code Enforcement	Bob Clendaniel	(302) 270-0687
Treasurer	Kathy Lock	(302) 422-5234	Town Clerk	Kathy McFadden	(302) 424-3925