



Special Points of Interest:

- **New Construction in Town - Page 2**
- **New Website to be Launched - Page 6**
- **Beach Replenishment Project - Before and After Photos - Page 7**
- **Voluntary Recycling to Begin in January - Please see insert**



From the Mayor's Office

The Summer of 2007, in addition to being beautifully warm and almost completely rain-free, presented to all who were here a final opportunity to experience the beach in Bethany as we've known it for these past years. Needless to say, that included the changing tides often leaving very little beach to enjoy, on some days the ocean breaking underneath the boardwalk.

However, in September the Army Corps of Engineers began the much anticipated Bethany Beach – South Bethany beach reconstruction project. Almost perfect weather and the presence of two barges working 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, has resulted in approximately a block of beach being completed each week as the project progressed. Beginning near Hollywood Street and first moving north to 5th Street, then returning to Hollywood and continuing south, the entire beach here in Bethany was completed by late October. A dune that measures 100 feet at the base and tapers to 25 feet at the top is followed to the ocean by a 150 foot beachfront. This is truly a major alteration that promises first of all to protect our town, and provide ample space for beachgoers for years to come.

Shortly after the pumping began it became apparent that the height of the dune, which at 16 feet above sea level has been designed for

optimal protection of our town, was changing the view of the beach from the boardwalk. It was not expected that a dune only 3 feet taller than the boardwalk itself would render the view of the shoreline unattainable. The width of the dune, however, while providing the protection that has been the expressed desire of many of our citizens, now makes it necessary to move near to the top of the dune to view the shoreline.

This has been distressing to some upon first encountering the change, but understood by most in considering the reason for the design of the project and what the funding was allocated to provide. At this time, it has been the request of DNREC, as partners with the federal government, in granting the funding share for our state, that a review of the design be considered by the Army Corps of Engineers to determine if the dune height might be lowered without compromising the protection afforded. We are awaiting the results of that review.

Another phase of the project, soon to begin, will be construction of the dune cross-overs. The steps leading from the boardwalk onto the beach will be removed and wooden ramps leading to the top of the dune will be installed, followed by hard packed sand surfaces onto the beach. At street ends these same hard packed sand surfaces will cross the dunes onto the beach. Handicapped access

ramps will be located at Wellington Parkway and at Ocean View Parkway. Then in the early Spring dune grass will be planted that will assist in stabilizing the dune.

The realization of this project, as has been previously mentioned, is the result of the persistent hard work on the part of our Washington delegates and DNREC officials as they responded to the concern on the part of literally thousands regarding our diminishing beach. Your positive input would be welcomed, I am sure.

On another note, a contract was recently approved by the Bethany Beach Town Council for curbside recycling with the Delaware Solid Waste Authority (DSWA). Information regarding this is to be found in this newsletter. Please take the time to read this as it is an optional program and requires individual homeowners to sign up if they plan to participate.

Very sincere wishes to all for a safe, and healthy, and enjoyable holiday season!

Mayor Carol Olmstead

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BUILDING
DEPARTMENT NEWS

Blue Surf Motel

The Blue Surf Motel which has been a landmark for many years is being “razed or torn down”. In its spot will be a new building which will house two restaurants on the first floor, one on the second and third floor, ten retail stores on the first floor along the boardwalk and Garfield Parkway, thirteen condos all on the second and third floors with a swimming pool, parking and storage areas.

South Coastal Library

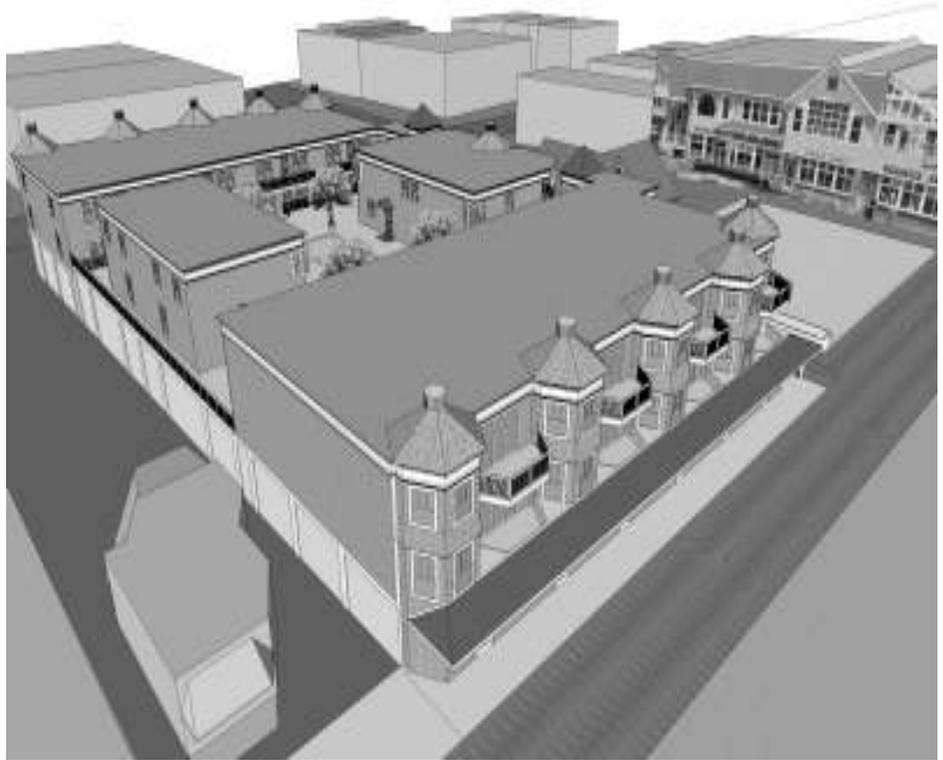
The South Coastal Library on Kent Avenue is temporarily closed because of renovations and a 10,000 square foot addition. There will be additional parking, extensive storm water management project, state of the art library with new meeting room, and outdoor area.

Community Rating System

The Town has recently completed the application and sent all documentation to the Insurance Services Office for their review and comments. We are hopeful to be receiving discounts on Flood Insurance Policies in the summer or fall of the 2008 season.

Building Code Effectiveness
Grading (B.C.E.G.)

The Town has completed this application and received an above average grading. This will mean that insurance companies will use this information when writing new policies and should mean reduction in insurance rates.



Drawing of Blue Surf Condominiums to replace Blue Surf Motel



Drawing of South Coastal Library’s Planned Expansion Project

From the Department of Public Safety.....

All of us know that we should have a Family Disaster Plan. But, did you know that recovery and re-entry should be an essential element of that plan? Our office of Public Safety offers these tips and suggestions to make your disaster recovery and re-entry as safe and convenient as possible.



Homes and properties are often damaged and even sometimes destroyed, requiring displacement of your family while repairs and rebuilding takes place. An extreme financial burden is often placed upon you while insurance matters are being resolved.

Following a disaster the Town of Bethany Beach's Damage Assessment Team will survey the Town looking for debris on streets, down power lines, flooded streets, streets washed out, sewage in breaks, gas leaks, etc. Based upon their assessment, and if an evacuation had been ordered, a decision will be made regarding re-entry by evacuees.

Depending upon the damage and hazards, it could be a full unrestricted re-entry, a partial restricted re-entry, or entry may be delayed until the Town is deemed to be safe for re-entry. It may also be ordered that you produce information at checkpoints verifying who you are and that you are a property owner in Bethany Beach. Personal identification, property tax records, deeds, etc., may need to be produced prior to re-entry.

Depending upon the magnitude of the event and the extent of property damage, the Delaware Emergency Management Agency may be summoned to Bethany Beach to hold public Town Meetings for the purpose of explaining to property owners the recovery process, available finances, insurance matters, etc.

As you return to your home or property following a disaster you should:

Walk carefully around your home and check for loose or down power lines, gas leaks, and structural damage. If you have any doubts call our Building Inspector at 302-539-8011

Do not walk through floodwaters as dangerous debris may be just below the surface. If the situation is unsafe, call for help

Do not turn on any electric until you are sure it is safe to do so Call an electrician if you are unsure

Stay away from sparking, broken, or frayed wires

Check the roof, foundation, and chimney. If it appears the building may collapse, leave immediately

Make sure all appliances are completely dry before using them

Check water and sewage system

Throw out all food that may have become contaminated or came in contact with floodwater

Disinfect items that may have been contaminated by raw sewage, bacteria, or chemicals.

Update from the

Parking Department



The "official" parking season in Bethany Beach ended on Saturday, September 15, which means that meters are no longer a challenge until May 15, 2008. **But** other regulations are enforced (noted in another paragraph). From a financial perspective, the summer was successful and will continue to contribute to Town cleanliness, beauty, and the many other costly aspects of a summer population of over 30,000 residents and visitors. The beautiful summer weather created a great venue for the beach, restaurants, and shops. A few observations from the Parking Department may aid those who are already thinking of next year.

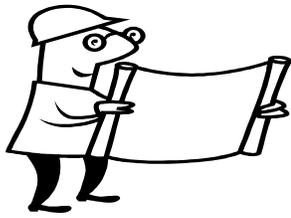
The Garfield Parkway and commercial district are the most popular parking spots for obvious reasons... restaurants, shops, meter change, beach access (all the action). BUT, also, where parking enforcement patrol is the highest (for those who may wonder why? That's where the majority of vehicles are). The two-hour meters create a challenge to those who "think" they can keep track of time. We note a high probability of a ticket when beach chairs are unloaded, as time flies by on the beach.

Ironically, drivers do not make the nearby beach lots a priority destination, yet the eight-hour meters allow much more flexibility with time management and less chance of a parking ticket. Change machines are located on Wellington and Campbell, plus the Boardwalk is but a short distance away.

No matter where drivers park, frustration mounts when they receive tickets for Improper Parking, which may be caused by extending into the driving lanes on Garfield Parkway, parking in two spaces, or parking in the bike lane. The bike lane is a sensitive issue to our Officers, as they see too many bicyclists swerving into a traffic lane to avoid a vehicle which is parked too far into the designated bike lane... a potential disaster.

Although the eight-month "off-season" includes free parking, the regulations of parking correctly apply. The most frequent violations are parking against the flow of traffic, extending into the traffic lanes on Garfield, backing into a space where prohibited, and parking with all four wheels on the street pavement. We hope this is a safe off-season for everyone and one without costly parking tickets.





Planning Commission



The Planning Commission's primary responsibilities include the administration of the Town's Zoning and Land Use regulations. In 2006, two new zoning districts were developed and a new Official Town Zoning Map was issued. This year, the Commission's attention was focused on Land Use and the updating of Bethany's 2005 Comprehensive Plan.

In order to do this, the Planning Commission needed a view of what our future holds during the next five or so years. Where is Bethany Beach heading? What should we be planning for? After some excellent input from a number of sources and weeks of discussion, the Vision Statement below was developed and adopted. The Planning Commission now has a near-term destination as we chart our path.

The Planning Commission welcomes your comments. Please eMail your thought to us at admin@townofbethanybeach.com with the subject noted as "Bethany Beach Vision Statement"

We send you and your family our best wishes for a happy and healthy Holiday season and look forward to seeing you in 2008.

Submitted by:

***Kathleen Mink, Former
Chair of Planning Commission***

Bethany Beach Vision Statement

When one thinks of Bethany Beach it usually is in the context of a "family resort" and there is every reason to believe that in the future this description will not change in any major respect. It's also quite true that Bethany has other characteristics that are somewhat descriptive: a senior citizen community (particularly in its off-season), a town that is populated in large part by part-time property owners, an area that has abundant floral displays (a municipal arboretum), a beach that has a trolley that goes by your front door – a town with its own "totem pole".

There will soon be changes of significance occurring that will only add to Bethany's appearance and which will further enhance Bethany's image. Some of these are:

The Church/Neff property at the corner of Rtes. 1 and 26 will become the "Gateway" to our community – a park that is visually stunning but one that will provide open space assessable to citizens and visitors alike with amenities for all ages.

A Nature Center with a view of over twenty (20) acres of an untouched landscape that provides pedestrian pathways to view this panorama together with a visitors building containing impressive video displays of this entire area.

A version of the Streetscape strategy will be completed, resulting in the removal of utility poles and the reconstruction of sidewalks in the 100 block of Garfield Parkway.

A working group of business leaders and community activists will come together and will work to attract the most exclusive shops and stores to Bethany's downtown – substantially upgrading the appearance and "feel" of downtown Bethany Beach.

In addition to the above, Bethany will undergo other types of material changes. While none of these changes will adversely impact its desirable location or its boutique character, they will, nevertheless, alter both its density and its appearance, as discussed hereunder.

The retiring baby boomer generation (which will impact almost everything in our country) will find Bethany Beach to be a choice location – one that offers a rare ocean attraction with a "residential environment". This attractiveness will, however, cause a disproportionate number of these retirees to move to this area -- impacting the existing infrastructure in almost every respect.

This "boomer" interest will serve to continue Bethany's location as the area's most expensive choice for housing and be extremely attractive to the investor-type

purchaser -- the result being a further increase in the number of non-resident property owners.

This investment focus will cause a continuance of two other factors: (1) a skyline of taller structures replacing smaller ones (maximizing the value of the property) and (2) a corresponding increase in the retail/renters over the more traditional private home owners. All the above will exacerbate the difficulty of administering a town government where a majority of property owners (and voters) have only a commercial interest in the area. Absentee voting will become more important than ever before.

The huge population increase west of Bethany will go on unabated, putting a greater strain on the town resources to provide space for the influx of visitors during the summer season. Out-of-town visitors will park in the western neighborhoods that will then install both parking meters and restrictive resident spaces to address the issue. This scarcity of parking will cause a shift to a scooter/bicycle form of transportation requiring appropriate storage facilities in the town to accommodate these types of vehicles.

Along with this growth in vehicular traffic will be a corresponding increase in the pedestrian population that will see the State government erecting a pedestrian skyway across Rte. 1 to augment the pedestrian movement to and from the beach.

Government/municipal administration will be strained in ways not here before experienced as decisions will need to be made in shorter time frames. Town Councils, as a result, will have to be proactive to new challenges that stretch current regulations. Local Town Council representatives from adjoining communities (Bethany Beach, South Bethany, Ocean View, Millville, etc) will meet regularly to coordinate their efforts to address common problems. ordination will be the regionalizing of police forces from Millville to Bethany Beach for a more effective police oversight at the most affordable cost. (*Continued, next page*)

Continued from Previous Page

This more effective police oversight will be needed to address a significant increase in criminal activity and traffic incidents. In addition, stronger code enforcement will be implemented to manage (and prevent) increased code violations.

Other government concerns will be those of a financial nature where property taxes and enterprise funds will be indexed together with periodic reassessments to properly absorb the increased expenses for expanded public services (e.g. public safety, transportation, and infrastructure enhancements for water, public works, etc.). Budgets will have a larger part of their income stream placed in reserves for beach restoration if federal and state subsidies are reduced. When this occurs Sussex County and/or Bethany Beach will enact beach-pass fees to fund beach restoration costs.

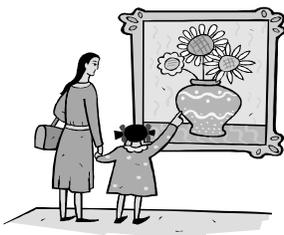
All the above are challenges that are both exciting as they are daunting and the history of our Town indicates that they will be addressed in a constructive manner that will only serve to continue Bethany Beach's reputation as the most desirable location along the shore.

Bethany Beach
Museum

Winter Hours

8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Monday through Friday



CULTURAL AND
HISTORICAL AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE

This past summer, due to a very generous docent response, the Bethany Beach Town Museum was open to the public from 12:00 noon until 4:00 pm each Saturday and Sunday during July and August. Although there were not a great number of visitors, those who volunteered as docents during this time reported that they enjoyed the experience of interacting with interested visitors.

At our first meeting of CHAC this Fall, it was decided that efforts to encourage public awareness of the museum might be addressed, as several of the summer visitors related that they had not previously known about the museum.

CHAC, as a result, is pursuing purchasing a flag to be displayed when the museum is open, a state "brown sign" identifying the location of the museum to be installed on Route 1 and/or 26, flyers to be distributed to realtors, and news articles in our local papers .

We have received many favorable remarks about the historical markers that were installed in front of nine houses in town. Plans are already in the works to have additional markers crafted for five other houses this year. A "walking tour" map depicting where these homes are located is available in the town hall lobby.

Our upcoming "Cultural Events" calendar for 2008 is as follows:

January 22 – "Anthems of an Era, 1920 to 1930" with Don Sharp

February 19 – "Old Time Radio Scripts" Ad Hoc Theatre Troupe

March 25 - "Food Lore: Folklore's Role in Regional Cuisine" Ed Okonowicz,

April 22 – "Growing Up as a Lighthouse Kid" Harry Spencer

These evening events are held at our Bethany Beach Town Hall at 7 pm. Refreshments are served and the programs promise a refreshing and interesting alternative to TV. We hope to see you there!

Submitted by:

Carol Olmstead, Committee Chair

BANDSTAND
ENTERTAINMENT
REPORT



The stage is dark now to be sure but the echoes and memories are bright. The 2007 Season marked the first full season on our new stage. The new technical equipment lent itself to many compliments on the quality of our sound system.

The weather cooperated beautifully with our scheduled season. We contracted 45 shows of which only the very popular Army Volunteers were rained out and the equally popular Dakkota had to cancel. That is a record!

The shows could not go on without all of the behind-the-scenes action. Usually about mid-afternoon the Bethany Beach Police Department escorts our performers to the unloading area: Dean Sissler is an expert in directing the drivers of 18-wheelers to squeeze in near the bandstand.

Also, the PD assists the performers in securing a parking spot for their Bethany gig.

Next in the preparation arena is the Public Works Department and the assistance of George Ely, our dedicated stagehand. George does it all: prepares the stage, helps set-up (& take down) our sound equipment, cleans the Guardhouse "dressing rooms", supplies ice water for our military groups and whatever else may crop up.

Our high-tech sound equipment comes under the able direction of the Schleifer family, Ken, Karen, and Kameron. Because of the capabilities of our new equipment they presented each act with a CD of their Bethany performance. That was a big hit with everyone.

I am currently beginning to book our shows for the 2008 Season. Our stage is a VERY popular venue. The hardest part of my job is not being able to accommodate everyone that wants to perform on our stage. Hope to see you on the bandstand.

Submitted by:

Gloria Farrar, Entertainment Director

Communications Committee Update

The Communications Committee provided the Council with a list of recommendations related to the web-site and to hard copy communications. In early summer, the Council adopted the list as non-binding guidelines. Most are in some stage of implementation.

The redeveloped town website is scheduled to "go live" on January 4, 2008. At that time, the website domain name will change to one ending in .gov as has become standard for government websites. There will be a forwarding feature if someone enters the current domain name that ends in .com.

(www.townofbethanybeach.com)

Navigation reached from the redeveloped home page will include the categories of About Us; Government; Services; Activities; Visitors; as well as Community and Business. Calendar and Recent News also appear on the home page. Town documents are available for download in a document center. The town will run a trial of a website feature that provides capability for a citizen to report a concern or make a request and receive an e-mail status of the response. The feature provides reports to the town manager.

Tools and training provided by the Contractor will provide town staff with capability to more easily maintain, update and change the website. The contract includes ongoing support to town staff. Other clients have given the town very favorable comments on their experiences.

(Contractor is Civic Plus at www.CivicPlus.com, They have done over 300 municipal websites nationwide).

The web redevelopment project was assigned by Council to the Town Manager. He has utilized volunteers and the Communications Committee to provide input and review documents such that citizen participation has been significant. That will further expand with citizen usability testing during the week of Dec 3 after the town receives the final draft of the website.

The Communications Committee has provided the manager with a review of the design layout of the new town website and input on content to be included.

Please see outline for new homepage below. Text is currently being used as a placeholder only.

Submitted by:

Tracy Mulligan

Committee Chairman

Template for the Town's New Website

Note: Current Text is Being Used as a Placeholder Only



Town Awarded Grant from the Delaware Department of Natural Resources

The Town has just gotten confirmation that it will receive a \$135,000 grant from the Delaware Department of Natural Resources to construct the second phase of the Nature Trail at the Bethany Beach Nature and Conservation Area.

This portion of the pathway moves the project ahead dramatically and only leaves a small portion of the pathway that needs to be completed.

Permits for the construction of the path are being completed as you read this and we hope to begin construction on this portion of the boardwalk in the spring.



Before the Beach Replenishment Project - November 22, 2006



After the Beach Replenishment Project - November 27, 2007

Town of Bethany Beach

214 Garfield Parkway
P.O. Box 109
Bethany Beach, DE

We welcome your comments and suggestions. Feel free to contact us either by telephone (302-537-3771) or email (admin@townofbethanybeach.com).



A special thank you is offered to all of those individuals who contributed to this issue of the Bethany Beach Newsletter!



One of the Quiet Resorts



- Carol A. Olmstead, Mayor
- Tony McClenny, Vice-Mayor
- Jerry Dorfman, Secretary/Treasurer
- Joseph T. Healy, Council member
- Tracy Mulligan, Council member
- J. Robert Parsons, Council member
- Steve Wode, Council member

Clifford M. Gravier, Town Manager

Lisa A. Kail, Administrative Assistant/Town Clerk

Ralph J. Mitchell, Public Safety Director

Michael D. Redmon, Chief of Police