

South Bethany Breeze

Fall/Winter 2023

What is Stormwater?

Stormwater is water that originates from precipitation including heavy rains and snow melt. Stormwater can infiltrate into the soil as groundwater, evaporate back into the atmosphere, or it can become surface runoff. Unfortunately, most runoff is conveyed directly as surface water to nearby streams, rivers, wetlands, lakes or oceans without treatment. Untreated runoff is one of the greatest threats to clean water in the U.S.

In Delaware, coastal properties tend to be flat and close to sea-level. This situation coupled with an underlying high water table, can create numerous challenges with the management of stormwater. As the number of homes and impervious pavement increases so does the threat of nuisance flooding due in part to the land mass being unable to absorb water and the large roof mass of homes conveying the water to the ground rapidly.

In coastal communities, the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Con-

trol (DNREC) assists municipalities with preparedness for potential flooding events. The agency offers best practice advice, resources, and studies to help communities see where improvement could be made. Additionally, DNREC oversees many other areas such as control of sediment, stormwater, dam safety, and tax ditches, to name just a few.

Since nuisance flooding and abnormally high tides seem to be intensifying in South Bethany, the Town has begun reviewing our stormwater infrastructure so that we continue to remain diligent in protecting and preserving the Town. Are there activities homeowners can do to assist in the management of their stormwater? Yes, all of us can look for ways to assist in managing the water on their property. One handy resource to help owners be proactive can be found here:

<https://www.stormwaterguide.org/static/HomeownersGuide.pdf>.



Phragmites australis

Within the next month, some residents will see professionals from Envirotech Environmental Consulting throughout the west side of Town (primarily Cat Hill), using an Integrated Vegetation Management



(IVM) Program for the purpose of controlling native nuisance and exotic vegetation control in drainage ditches and culverts. *Phragmites australis*, otherwise known as common reed, is a highly invasive grass that typically establishes itself in and around the transition zone between open water and upland ecosystems and disturbed soil sites. The control and eradication of *Phragmites* is encouraged by the EPA, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and both Delaware and Maryland environmental agencies.

Phragmites may also have negative economic impacts to property owners as well. The plant may become so invasive that it jeopardizes the structural integrity of asphalt roadways, stormwater management systems and retention basins. The density of the stems, the amount of bio-mass that the plant provides, and the proximity of growth to human dwellings, makes *Phragmites* a fire hazard by providing a superior fuel source.

Information provided by Envirotech Environmental Consulting, Inc., Common Reed Fact Sheet and Control/Eradication Measures. Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) Programs.

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Town of South Bethany • 402 Evergreen Road • South Bethany, DE 19930
 Monday through Friday, 7:30 am to 4:00 pm, closed weekends & holidays
 Visit the Town Website: <https://southbethany.delaware.gov/>
 Get Connected! Visit our website to sign up for email notifications
 Find us on Instagram @southbethanytownhall



BEACH PATROL

South Bethany Beach Patrol



Another successful summer season for the South Bethany Beach Patrol.

Congratulations to our **Lifeguard of the Year, Eric Lutz** (pictured left)! Eric was chosen by his peers because of his dedication and hard work. We appreciate Eric and all of our guards for providing safety and watchfulness during this very busy season. It was not an easy task during the beach nourishment!



Special thanks to our Beach Patrol Captain, Ryan Dacey (pictured above with Eric), who, along with his guards, brought us through a safe and successful summer.

RIGHT-OF-WAY ENCROACHMENTS

As part of our continuing effort to review safety risks and concerns in the community, the Town will be conducting **Phase I** of our yearly rights-of-way inspections and performing maintenance at intersections and streets (including canal ends owned by the Town and privately owned), around late September through early spring. This project entails removing or trimming back all vegetation in the rights-of-way.

Items such as overgrown vegetation and other rights-of-way encroachments are detrimental to the safety of bicyclists, pedestrians, and motorists, as well as emergency and delivery vehicles. Vegetation includes, but is not limited to, bushes, flowers, vines, trees, ornamental grasses, or other plantings which infringe upon any of the streets, street rights-of-way and beach access rights-of-way.

Any property owner wishing to hire a professional arborist or landscaper at their own expense, may do so to remove vegetation or other rights-of-way encroachments. If you choose to hire a professional arborist or land-

scaping company, please notify the Code Enforcement department of your decision so that your property is removed from the project scope of work.

Phase 2 – This phase consists of inspection and review of any existing infringements from hardscape in the Town’s rights-of-way. Hardscape includes, but is not limited to, decorative above-ground gardens with pavers, decorative river stones, trash bins, driveway chains/ropes, irrigation systems, fencing, etc.

Notifications to property owners will take place as necessary after the inspection Phase. Property owners are encouraged to take proactive actions to remove any known hardscape infringements in the rights-of-way at this time.

We anticipate that Phase 1 will take anywhere from 6 to 8+ months and Phase 2 could take anywhere from 1 to 2+ years.

As a reminder, both phases of the rights-of-way project are being conducted in accordance with Town Code §125-2, Activities Prohibited,

which states “No person shall obstruct any of the streets, street rights-of-way, beach access rights-of-way or waterways of the Town by placing thereon any barrier or impediment to the free flow of pedestrian, vehicular or boat traffic. Such barriers or impediments shall include but shall not be limited to boats, building materials, machinery, trash containers, landscaping timbers and pilings, or vegetation...”

We appreciate your cooperation and look forward to providing clear passages for our community and all who visit and travel through the Town of South Bethany.



OFFICE HOURS FOR BUILDING/CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

Building/Code Enforcement Department meetings with Joe Hinks is by appointment only. Anyone wishing to meet with Joe can request an appointment by calling him at 302-539-3653, ext. 102, or by emailing him at inspector@southbethany.org.

Office hours are as follows:

- Tuesday & Thursday - Morning appointments from 8:00 to 11:30 AM**
- Wednesday - Afternoon appointments from 12:30 to 3:00 PM**
- Monday & Friday - Site Visits and Field Inspections**



Just the Facts

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

The Community Relations Committee will be hosting this successful event, providing conversation and coffee with the Mayor, several Councilmembers, Police Chief Jason Lovins and others, every third Friday at South Bethany Town Hall (unless otherwise noted).



The coffee events are a time for the public to stop in, listen, or share comments in an informal setting with neighbors. Stay tuned to see who will be next by subscribing to the South Bethany News Updates.

A FRIENDLY REMINDER IF YOU RENT

If you have rented your property, you will need to pay rental tax. The rental tax is 8% of your gross rental income and is due by October 31, 2023. The Town mailed out rental tax forms in early September to all the properties who paid their Application for Rental License Declaration.

SOUTH BETHANY POLICE WELCOMES NEW POLICE OFFICER!

Chief Jason Lovins is happy to announce the hiring of a new Officer to the South Bethany Police Department. Welcome, Officer Chris Miller!

REMINDER: CONTACT ARTESIAN FOR WATER EMERGENCIES

Our yearly reminder to property owners.....the Public Works Department is not permitted to enter on, or in, properties to turn off or repair broken water pipes. Property owners, or concerned neighbors who notice a broken pipe, must call Artesian at **302-453-6930**. Please be prepared to provide the street address of the property to Artesian's customer service.

HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING, DECEMBER 2, 2023

Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 2nd, when the Community Relations Committee will host the second annual Holiday Tree Lighting at Town Hall. Join us for live music, snacks, and good cheer beginning at 5 p.m. We will once again be accepting donations at the event to benefit a local food pantry. More details about acceptable donations will be shared as the date draws closer.

IMPORTANT POLICE REMINDERS

While it is widely known that the Town is very pet-friendly, it's important to remember that all dogs must be leashed in the Town's corporate limits. Anyone walking their dogs off-leash could be cited by the Police.

Dog bag stations and waste containers are located throughout Town and owners are responsible for the removal of dog waste. Please keep our Town clean & safe!

Reminder! Dogs are not permitted on the beach at any time from May 15 through October 15.

STOP SIGNS

As a reminder to everyone living in, driving through, or visiting our Town.....you must stop at stop signs! We've had numerous complaints to our Police Department and Town Hall that stop signs have mysteriously turned into yield signs! Don't make the mistake of gliding through a stop sign or it could cost you!

CONGRATS TO OUR TOWN CLERK

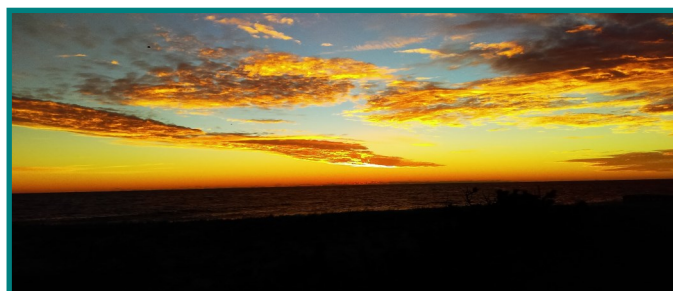
Congratulations to Town Clerk, Matt Amerling, who was selected as 2023 Town Clerk of the Year by the Delaware Municipal Clerks Association (DMCA). Matt will be honored for this accomplishment during the October Delaware League of Local Government meeting. Good job, Matt!

SUMMER 2023 COMES TO AN END

BIG THANKS to ECE Yoga (Monica), Murray Oltman Yoga (Murray), and Jay's Vending for providing a healthy and fun-filled summer on the beach!

BONFIRE ON THE BEACH

Fall is a great time to catch up with neighbors, meet new friends, watch the sun set and rise, and toast marshmallows on the beach! Stop by our **Bonfire on the Beach** scheduled for **Friday, October 6** from 7 PM to 8:30 PM off the South 3rd Street walkway. This fun event is sponsored by the Community Relations Committee. Bring a blanket or chair and your own marshmallows. We'll supply the sticks and the bonfire!





TOWN HALL INFORMATION PAGE

Town Hall is opened 7:30 am - 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday
Closed holidays & weekends

STAY INFORMED! GET CONNECTED

The Town of South Bethany offers TWO options to subscribe for email notifications

Visit our Town website at southbethany.delaware.gov. At the top of the home page, click on the banner "more info".

News Updates provides only Town Council agendas and news releases regarding emergency weather, Town election, events and activities, trash schedule and other various town related information.

Meetings Only provides just that - Town Council and Committee meeting notifications. You will receive an email on each day that the notices are published. Each email will include a title, summary and link access.

TOWN HALL 302-539-3653

STAFF

	<u>NAME</u>
Town Manager	Maureen Hartman
Finance Director	Renee McDorman
Code Enforcement Officer	Joe Hinks
Town Clerk	Matt Amerling
Admin Assistant	Brittany Sneeringer
Public Works Supervisor	Jon Stiffler
Public Works	Greg DeMarco
Beach Patrol Captain	Ryan Dacey

POLICE DEPARTMENT 302-539-3996 (non-emergency)

Chief of Police	Jason Lovins
Corporal	Shaun Baldasano
Corporal	Matt Wilson
Corporal	Chris Miller
Police Officer	Matt Boyd
Police Officer	Ken Huff
Police Officer	Cliff Adar
PD Admin Assistant	Coleen Meyer

TOWN COUNCIL

Mayor	Timothy Saxton
Councilmembers:	
Treasurer	Randall Bartholomew
Councilmember	Bob Biciocchi
Secretary	Eddie Dondero
Councilmember	Chris Keefe
Mayor Pro Tem	William (Tim) Shaw

TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meeting dates/times are subject to change; meetings can be attended in person or, when available, accessed via the virtual link provided on all agendas.

Town Council meetings are normally held the 2nd Fri at 9:00 am, and Town Workshops, if necessary, are normally held the 4th Fri at 9:00 am. (unless otherwise noted)

DATE	TIME	MEETING
Oct 13	9:00 AM	Town Council Regular Meeting
Oct 27	9:00 AM	Town Council Workshop
Nov 9 (Thursday)	9:00 AM	Town Council Regular Meeting
Nov 10	TOWN HALL CLOSED (VETERANS DAY)	
Nov 23-24	TOWN HALL CLOSED (THANKSGIVING)	
Dec 8	9:00 AM	Town Council Regular Meeting
Dec 25-26	TOWN HALL CLOSED (CHRISTMAS)	
January		NO Town Council Meetings
Feb 9	9:00 AM	Town Council Regular Meeting
Feb 23	9:00 AM	Town Council Workshop
March 8	9:00 AM	Town Council Regular Meeting
March 22	9:00 AM	Town Council Workshop
March 29	TOWN HALL CLOSED (GOOD FRIDAY)	
April 12	9:00 AM	Town Council Regular Meeting
April 26	9:00 AM	Town Council Workshop
May 10	9:00 AM	Town Council Regular Meeting



ADDITIONAL CONTACTS

State Police Non-Emergency	302-855-2980
DNREC (Boating complaints outside of Town limits)	800-523-3336

U.S. Coast Guard	800-424-8802
Republic Services (Trash, Recycling, Yard Waste)	800-762-8888

DE Solid Waste Authority (Landfill)	800-404-7080
Artesian (Water and broken pipes)	302-453-6930 *
Sharp Energy (Emergency)	302-856-6648
(Complaint)	302-539-7898

***Reminder: Property owners or concerned neighbors must call Artesian, not Town Hall, regarding broken water pipes.**

New to the Neighborhood? Stop by Town Hall to pick up a "Welcome Bag," which provides information about the Town.

Questions? Call Town Hall at (302) 539-3653, extension 101.

NOTE: The **South Bethany Property Owner's Association (SBPOA)** is not affiliated with the Town. All questions/comments for SBPOA should be directed to the SBPOA President. For more information, visit southbethanypoa.com.