

South Bethany Breeze

Spring/Summer 2026

THE STATE OF THE TOWN: **YEAR-END FY2026** **MAYOR EDIE DONDERO**

As we enter the last few weeks of Fiscal Year 2026, the Town remains in a strong financial position. Once again, we expect to close out the year with a budget surplus due, in part, to robust realty transfer tax revenue and lean spending by our Town staff. Any surplus funds will contribute to the Town's operating, asset replacement, and infrastructure reserves.

The Council is poised to pass a balanced \$3.5 million operating budget for Fiscal Year 2027 that does not include any increases in property tax or rental tax rates. Capital expenditures anticipated for the year include \$368,230 in asset replacement (depreciated equipment and vehicles); \$65,000 in new equipment purchases; and \$514,000 in engineering services for flood mitigation analyses and project design, and the update of an assessment of canal depths and conditions, which is a prerequisite to dredging.

We are awaiting repair by DNREC of our dune crossovers so that all beach walkways can be opened. Unfortunately, at this time it does not appear that the accessible, ADA-compliant beach

access ramp will be restored before the start of the season. We continue to press DNREC for assistance and will make all possible accommodations to ensure that all visitors can safely access the beach.

Improving drainage throughout Town continues to be our highest priority. Over the last year, new storm basins were installed in several locations. About one dozen check valves have been placed on existing drainage pipes to prevent the backflow of tidal waters into storm drains. Staff plans to have installed a total of 38 valves by next winter.

The flood mitigation project for York Road will be completed this month, as soon as temperatures and weather conditions are suitable. Council recently awarded a contract to an engineering firm to begin the second phase of this project, which will analyze flooding conditions on the streets adjoining York Road and design mitigation measures to alleviate roadway flooding.

We have also hired an engineering firm to conduct an analysis of bulkhead heights throughout town and determine whether heights can be raised without adversely impacting the flood-

plain. This study has just begun and is expected to be completed this October. The consulting engineers may need access to private properties to determine elevations. We will seek landowner permission for such access as the need arises.

Starting next month, the Planning Commission will work with a consultant to begin development of a new Comprehensive Plan for the Town. Required by the State every ten years, these plans guide land use decisions and policies and identify community concerns and priorities. Participation by property owners is critical to the success of this process. The consultants will schedule and arrange multiple opportunities for property owner engagement including formal and informal meetings and surveys. We will promote these opportunities in advance and encourage all residents and landowners to participate.

It's going to be a very busy year in South Bethany! I wish you a safe, pleasant spring and summer, and hope to see you in person at a meeting or Town-sponsored social event!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

New Waste Service	2
Election Cancelled	2
Protect Your Property From Flooding	2
Just the Facts	3
Community Relations Committee	4
Code Enforcement	4
Safety Corner & Welcome	5
Town Hall Info Page	6

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

Waste Service Transition to Casella (Effective May 1, 2026)



The Town will transition from Republic Services to Casella as its waste services provider effective May 1, 2026. Please review the important dates and service updates below.

Transition Timeline

- **Friday, April 24** – Last recycling pickup by Republic Services. Recycling containers will be removed this day. Please place containers curbside and leave them there until picked up by Republic.
- **Monday, April 27** – Last trash pickup by Republic Services. Removal of containers from the town-owned trash bins on Ocean Drive and Sandpiper Village.
- **Weeks of April 20 and April 27** – Casella will deliver new recycling containers. *Do not use these containers for Republic's*

April 24 pickup. Casella will deliver new containers for town-owned trash bins on Ocean Drive and Sandpiper Village.

- **Monday, May 4** – Casella begins trash collection
- **Wednesday, May 6** – Casella begins yard waste collection
- **Thursday, May 7** – Casella begins recycling collection

New Collection Schedule (Beginning May 1)

- **Recycling:** Every Thursday (year-round)
- **Trash:** Every Monday (year-round); twice weekly (Monday and Friday) from June through September
- **Yard Waste:** First and third Wednesday of each month (year-round)

Bulk Pickup

- **Saturday, May 9**
- **Saturday, September 12**

Additional details are available on the Town's trash collection calendar, which can be found on the website or at Town Hall.

South Bethany 2026 Town Election Cancelled

The Town of South Bethany Election, which would have been scheduled for May 9, 2026, has been cancelled. There were three seats open for Council Members for two-year terms and one seat for Mayor for a two-year term. The seat for Mayor and two seats for Council members were filled by unopposed candidates. All were qualified by the Board of Elections. The following are declared elected by the South Bethany Board of Elections:

Mayor – Edith Dondero

Council Members – Steven Gallagher and Robert Shields

The Town of South Bethany will swear in the three candidates at the Town Council Organizational Meeting to be held at a later date, which will be posted. According to the Town Charter, the Council member vacancy will be filled by appointment of the newly constituted Town Council.

Protect Your Property From Flooding: Resiliency Committee

Living in a coastal town means that you are at high risk of flooding. There are a number of things you can do to protect your property from flooding. Here are a few actions for the exterior of your home.

1. Maintain proper runoff and drainage

Routinely clean and maintain gutters and downspouts, so that rainwater from your roof flows away from your home. If there is a storm drain on your property, keep it clear of debris.

2. Improve lot grading

Determine how water flows or accumulates around your home to identify potential trouble spots. Ensure stormwater flows away from your house; modify landscaping, if needed, to improve runoff. This may include building up any sunken areas (with sand or fill, as permitted by code),

or digging small depressions or swales to properly channel water.

3. Reduce impervious surfaces on your lot

Retaining and creating natural green spaces around your home can help reduce stormwater runoff and prevent storm basin overflows. Consider options such as rain gardens, vegetated swales, or pervious pavers, which allow more water to be absorbed into the ground. Avoid asphalt and concrete entirely.

4. Install a rain barrel

A rain barrel is an alternate method of dealing with rainwater. Rain barrels are typically connected to gutter downspouts and collect the runoff from roofs. You can use the stored water to irrigate plants or wash your car.

5. Elevate utilities and service equipment

Raise and anchor air conditioning condensers, heat pumps, and other service equipment onto pedestals or platforms that are at least one foot above potential flood elevation.

6. Anchor fuel tanks

Attach outdoor fuel tanks to a large concrete slab that weighs enough to resist the force of floodwaters, or install inexpensive ground anchors that are connected across the top of the tank with metal straps. Unanchored fuel tanks can be easily moved and ruptured by floodwaters and pose serious threats to people, property, and the environment. Ideally, fuel tanks should be raised above flood elevation.

Chair, Edie Dondero

Just the Facts

RESPECT, PROTECT, COLLECT: CARRY-IN/CARRY-OUT TRASH ON THE BEACH



To combat beach litter and promote environmental responsibility, the Town of South Bethany has implemented 'carry-in/carry-out' trash policies, reminding all visitors to pack out all trash, instead of relying on trash cans on the beach.

Why carry-in/carry out? **Public Awareness:** encourages visitors to be mindful of trash and take responsibility for its disposal. **Environmental Quality:** less litter means cleaner beaches and healthier ecosystems. **Resource Management:** removing trash is costly and time-consuming. This system reduces the need for extensive trash removal efforts. Everyone deserves to enjoy and relax on our beautiful beach, so please remember... **CARRY IN/CARRY OUT!**

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS

Ordinance 217-25 Create Chapter 101 to Establish Clear Guidelines for Retention & Disposition of Lost or Turned Over Property

Ordinance 218-25 Amendment to Chapter 134, Section 134-2E to Permit Food Trucks at Town-Sponsored Events

Ordinance 219-25 Amending Chapter 1 to Establish Clear Procedure for the Adopting & Preparing Ordinances to Amend Town Code

Ordinance 220-25 Create Chapter 146 to Establish a Clean Hands Policy

Ordinance 221-25 Amendment to Chapter 17 Regarding Guidelines for Council, Committee & Commission Members to Attend Meetings by Remote Electronic Access

Resolution 1-25 Set the FY26 Property Tax Rate & Rental Tax Rate

Resolution 2-25 Revise South Bethany's Schedule of Fees

Resolution 3-25 Adopting an Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2026

Resolution 4-25 Recognizing William "Tim" Shaw

**Ordinances & Resolutions can be viewed at
Town Hall or at
southbethany.delaware.gov.**

IMPORTANT REMINDER TO EVERYONE VISITING TOWN HALL

With summer just around the corner, we want to remind everyone who visits Town Hall to park only in the assigned parking spaces for Town Hall and the Police Department, and do not enter the area past the stop sign to the Public Works, Artesian, or Sharp Energy facilities. Anyone wishing to speak with someone in Public Works must come to Town Hall. The stop signs also apply to bicyclists, walkers, runners, and dog walkers. It is a very busy area with constant vehicle and truck traffic, and your safety is very important to us!

DUMPSTERS AND OVERNIGHT PARKING

Municipal dumpsters at Town Hall are for Town Hall use only. Public use is not permitted. Overnight and weekend parking in the Town Hall parking lot is not permitted. These areas are under 24-hour surveillance. Thank you!



DNREC'S DROUGHT RESOURCES AND AWARENESS WEBSITE

To explore current drought conditions and water supply updates, visit DNREC's new website that tracks these conditions.

<https://climate.udel.edu/drought/>

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.

ALGAE HARVESTING SCHEDULED FOR MID MAY

For the fourth year, the Town of South Bethany is partnering with DNREC and Solitude Lake Management to provide algae harvesting during the week of May 18th. Property owners are reminded that special requests for harvesting activity around their dock/bulkhead cannot be considered, since the harvest operators are given direction by Solitude and DNREC. Your cooperation with the success and completion of this project is greatly appreciated. Thank you!

Community Relations Committee



We have five fabulous members on this Committee who are committed to planning and promoting

SBCRC

Town-wide events that educate and bring people together.

They did a great job last year, organizing the "Coffee With" events, Food Drive, and Holiday Tree Lighting, to name just a few.

This year is off to a great start! The Town Code Enforcement Officer Joe Hinks gave the audience salient information on elevators, height restrictions,

and many other topics at the February "Coffee With" event. And in March, Chief Lovins addressed safety concerns in our community, possible solutions and shared some interesting policing interactions with the public.

These get-togethers are good opportunities to exchange ideas, meet your neighbors, and have some coffee and a bite to eat! They are never boring.

The CRC is planning a Spring Bonfire on April 17 (rain date, April 18).

The next "Coffee With" event will be held on April 17 at 10 a.m. Guest speaker to be announced shortly.

Information regarding the Boating Safety course endorsed by the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Enforcement Control (DNREC) will be sent out in the next 30 days so all our boaters can get their Boating Safety Certificate.

We are planning a summer event to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States. More information will be forthcoming. In the meantime, check your emails and the Town Bulletin boards for updates on CRC events.

Chairwoman, Chris Keefe

CODE ENFORCEMENT

Recycle carts – Recycle collection times change in May to every Thursday for pickup. Many people are unaware of the proper storage and placement of their carts, so for simplicity here is the Town Code: 114-6A (5-7): [\(5\)](#) Trash containers and recycle carts not stored in a bin should be placed at curbside the day before pickup and removed after collection on pickup day. The property owner or occupant shall place recycling carts and all protective containers of solid waste at curbside, but not on the public right-of-way, in order that the recyclable materials and solid waste may be conveniently removed by the collector. [\(6\)](#) Except for pickup, the owner or occupant of any property shall not keep trash cans containers or recycle carts at curbside unless stored in a suitable bin. Bins for storage of waste containers larger than 55 gallons shall be open on one or two sides and should have no floor or a low floor to facilitate the removal of containers. [\(7\)](#) Waste containers that are not stored in bins shall be kept at or under the house.

Mosquito prevention - Keep gutters clean of tree debris to promote proper roof drainage and help control mosquito breeding. Consider purchasing mosquito dunks to help cut back on the mosquito population. Here are two handy links for mosquito control products.

<http://www.summitchemical.com/mosquito/mosquito-dunks/>

<http://www.arbico-organics.com/category/natural-mosquito-control-products>

Vegetation - Trim back trees to promote new vigorous growth. If you have trees that are next to the canals please



trim branches back so that tree debris doesn't litter our canals.

[§ 104-12 Vegetation.](#)

[§ 125-2 Activities prohibited.](#)

Grass Clippings - To protect waterways and prevent water pollution, avoid allowing grass clippings to enter canals or storm drains by keeping them on your lawn, using them for composting, or disposing of them properly. Grass clippings contain nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus, which can cause excessive algae growth (eutrophication) in waterways. Excessive algae can block sunlight, harm aquatic life, and deplete oxygen when it decomposes. Grass clippings can clog storm drains, leading to flooding and preventing the proper functioning of drainage systems. Please do your best to keep our waterways safe and clean! [§ 104-7 Duty to mow and trim.](#)



Mold & Mildew - Please take the time to inspect your home for mold and mildew growth. This type of growth can lead to staining and damage to house siding. Consider having your home professionally power washed. [§ 104-17 Repair and maintenance of exterior structures.](#)

Questions? Contact Joe Hinks at 302-539-3653, extension 102.



Welcome

South Bethany **WELCOMES** Robert “Bobby” Conway to the Public Works Department. Bobby has extensive experience in Public Works. Please say hello to Bobby when you see him this summer!

Alex Pszczola is currently in training and will start with the Police Department upon graduation in June!

NEW TO SOUTH BETHANY?

Welcome, Neighbor! 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.

SAFETY CORNER

by Councilman Bob Shields

As we get ready to enter the Summer season, prepare for increased pedestrian, bicycle and vehicle traffic. Remember to walk facing traffic and ride bikes with the flow of traffic. Be especially attentive at our Coastal Highway crosswalks. Here is an excellent safety checklist: bit.ly/4IMoZoV. I recommend you download it and post it in your kitchen or include it in your rental instructions. Another good safety tip is for owners on the canals to display their street number on the back of the house. This

could save critical minutes in the event of an emergency reported by cross-canal neighbors.

Upcoming Events: 1) Mark your calendar for our annual **Bike Rodeo** on Saturday, July 11, 2026. This popular event provides experts to check out your bike and make minor repairs. We also have a training course to test your biking skills and hand out safety items like helmets and bike safety lights. We are hoping to have a fire engine and a food truck this year. **2) Crosswalk Pilot Program** - We are working with DELDOT to implement a pilot program this summer on a couple of our Coastal Highway crosswalks. The program would provide orange flags (photo)



on each side of the crosswalk. Pedestrians would use the flag to alert drivers and then cross the highway where they would deposit

it in a container for use on the return trip. This program has been successfully used in Melbourne Beach, FL. More info to follow. **Stay Safe!**

Delaware Solid Waste Authority Household Hazardous Waste



DSWA operates Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Events at this Sussex County location weekly throughout the year. Delaware residents can bring their HHW to the event free of charge:

Jones Crossroads Landfill
28560 Landfill Lane, Georgetown, DE 19947
1-800-404-7080
Every Monday: 10am—2pm

WHAT IS NOT ACCEPTED:

FRIABLE ASBESTOS, NON-FRIABLE ASBESTOS
UNKNOWN SUBSTANCES
EXPLOSIVES (AMMO, FIREWORKS, ETC.)
CONTAINERS WITH LESS THAN 1” OF MATERIAL
USED MOTOR OIL
RADIOACTIVE WASTE
Smoke Detectors
PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS



For more information, check out <https://dswa.com/programs/household-hazardous/>.

YOGA ON THE BEACH
DIVISION STREET
SOUTH BETHANY
7:30AM
THURSDAY THROUGH SUNDAY
\$15 PER SESSION (CASH OR VENMO)
ECE YOGA
ECEYOGA.COM



TOWN HALL INFORMATION PAGE



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

TOWN HALL 302-539-3653

<u>STAFF</u>	<u>NAME</u>
Town Manager	Maureen Hartman
Finance Director	Renee McDorman
Code Enforcement Officer	Joe Hinks
Town Clerk	Matt Amerling
Admin. Assistant	Brittany Hollis
Public Works	Nick Donatoni
	Greg DeMarco
	William Peckholdt
	Robert Conway
Beach Patrol Captain	Ryan Dacey

POLICE DEPARTMENT 302-539-3996

(non-emergency)

Chief of Police	Jason Lovins
Lieutenant	Shaun Baldasano
Corporal	Ken Huff
Corporal	Tyler Bare
Police Officer/PIO	Matt Boyd
Police Officer	Chase Morris
Police Officer	Alex Pszczola, IV
PD Admin Assistant	Coleen Meyer
Parking Enforcement	Dee Ramsay

TOWN COUNCIL

Mayor	Edith Dondero
Mayor Pro Tem	Robert Biciocchi
Treasurer	Randall Bartholomew
Secretary	Christine Keefe
Councilmember	Mark Giler
Councilmember	Robert Shields
Councilmember	Cindy Van Horn

TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS 2026

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

Town Council meetings are normally held the 2nd Friday at 9:00 a.m.

Town Workshops, if necessary, are normally held the 4th Friday at 9:00 a.m. (unless otherwise noted)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>MEETING</u>
April 24	9:00 AM	Town Council Workshop
May 8	9:00 AM	Town Council Regular Meeting
May 19 (Tues)	9:00 AM	Organizational Meeting
May 25	TOWN HALL CLOSED (Memorial Day)	
June 12	9:00 AM	Town Council Regular Meeting
June 26	9:00 AM	Town Council Workshop
July 3	TOWN HALL CLOSED (Independence Day Observ.)	
July 10	9:00 AM	Town Council Regular Meeting
July 24	9:00 AM	Town Council Workshop
Aug. 14	9:00 AM	Town Council Regular Meeting
Aug. 28	9:00 AM	Town Council Workshop
Sept. 7	TOWN HALL CLOSED (Labor Day)	
Sept. 11	9:00 AM	Town Council Regular Meeting
Sept. 25	9:00 AM	Town Council Workshop
Oct. 9	9:00 AM	Town Council Regular Meeting
Oct. 23	9:00 AM	Town Council Workshop
Nov. 11	TOWN HALL CLOSED (Veterans Day)	
Nov. 13	9:00 AM	Town Council Regular Meeting
Nov. 26 & 27	TOWN HALL CLOSED (Thanksgiving)	
Dec. 11	9:00 AM	Town Council Regular Meeting
Dec. 24 & 25	TOWN HALL CLOSED (Christmas)	

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.

REMINDER: 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.