



Mayor's Monthly

May 2026

NEWS & INFO

Council Weighing Town Charter Changes

The Council is currently debating whether to reduce its size from seven members to five. This is under consideration because it has been getting more difficult to find enough candidates willing to run for Council seats. When there are less candidates than open seats available or when all candidates are unopposed, the annual election is cancelled. Four of the seven current Council members were originally appointed to their seats, and one was declared elected by the Board of Elections after running unopposed. Again this year, not enough candidates filed to run and the election was cancelled. As a result, the two candidates were both declared elected and one vacant seat will be filled by appointment of the Council. It is hoped that reducing the number of seats will 1) make it easier to find qualified candidates, and 2) increase the likelihood that an election will occur each year, thereby making the process more democratic and ensuring that residents are given the opportunity to elect their representatives. By way of comparison, a Council of five members would be consistent with other municipalities of similar size; of 12 towns in Sussex County with populations under 2,000, ten have Councils with five or less members.

Changing the size of the Council will require approval from the Delaware General Assembly. Before the Council votes on whether to make the permanent change to our Town charter, we want to hear what you think. Email me at mayor@southbethany.org or Maureen at townmanager@southbethany.org with your opinion.

New Waste Collection Schedule

Remember that the new trash, recycling, and yard waste schedule goes into effect today. Pickup schedule will be trash on Monday and Friday, recycling on Thursday, and yard waste every other Wednesday starting May 6. You can pick-up a printed schedule in the lobby of Town Hall or download a copy by clicking [here](#).

New Beach Canopy Restrictions Effective May 15th

In response to concerns expressed by many residents, we will enact new restrictions for shading structures on the beach. Effective May 15th, no canopies or other shade structures larger than 8'x8', including Shibumi shades, are permitted; canopies may not be erected before 10:00 a.m.; and any canopy left unattended will be removed. We kindly ask all property owners to respect these restrictions and set a good example for visitors and renters using our beaches.

Emergency Preparedness Tip of the Month

Register for the Delaware Emergency Notification System (DENS) to receive public warning and emergency protective action information. Register your cell phone to receive notifications by visiting [this site](#).

Parking Pass Season Begins

Reminder that parking passes are required for use of all spaces on the east side of Coastal Highway starting May 15th and the last day being September 15th. Two passes can be purchased by property owners at Town Hall or via the Town website. Daily parking passes for non-residents are available for purchase at the kiosk outside Town Hall beginning on May 15.

CALENDAR NOTES

May 8: Town Council Meeting, 9 a.m.

May 9: Bulk Trash Pick-Up

May 15: Monthly Coffee & Conversation, 10 a.m.; and seasonal parking & construction restrictions begin

May 19: Town Council Reorganizational Meeting, 9 a.m.

May 23: South Bethany Beach Patrol returns to duty

May 25: Town Hall Closed for Memorial Day