



CITY OF LEWES

The First Town In The First State

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2019

Property Taxes: Tax bills are mailed in April and are due upon receipt. A penalty of 1.5% per month will be assessed on all outstanding taxes if not received by June 30. The tax bill period is April 1 – March 31.

Tax payments can be mailed, dropped off at City Hall, or made on our website. Forms of payments accepted are cash, check (made payable to **City of Lewes**), or credit card (Visa, Mastercard, & Discover). There is a \$50 returned check fee. If you have questions about your assessment or tax bill, please call the Tax Clerk at (302) 645-7777 ext. 114.

Property owners are able to search the city's website for tax information. This feature can be found on our homepage, left hand side menu: click on "Search for Tax Information" (directly from this window you may click on "Make a Payment" to pay taxes online).

Building Construction in the Floodplain: The City of Lewes is a participant in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and the Community Rating System. Participation in these programs helps keep flood insurance affordable for our property owners. As a program participant, we adhere to floodplain construction standards to help mitigate flood risk. If you have a property in the floodplain and are considering construction:

- The City has adopted the standard of 18 inches of freeboard above Base Flood Elevation (BFE) for all structures located within the floodplain that are constructed or substantially improved.
- If property owners are considering work on a structure in the floodplain in which the improvement costs are more than 50% of the value of the structure only, minus depreciation, then the structure must be brought into compliance with the latest floodplain standards.
- The City has a substantial improvement regulation for all construction within the floodplain. This requires that all construction costs to a structure over a 10 year period count towards the 50% rule.
- The City requires for new construction and any substantially improved structure that a total of 3 Elevation Certificates (EC) must be submitted. The first is submitted at the proposed construction, second is when the first floor is complete, and the final is submitted prior to issuance of the Certificate of Occupancy (CO).

If you have any questions about construction in the floodplain or about construction in general throughout the city, please contact the Building Officials by calling (302) 645-7777 ext. 120 for Robin Davis or ext. 102 for Henry Baynum. You can also reference the City of Lewes online Code Book Section 197-73 from the website.

Business License: Any person, firm, and corporation engaged for profit, entities who deliver and/or provide a service to City residents, and businesses along with property owners who rent rooms, cottages, private houses or apartments, including those providing rentals in the City through an online app, must pay an annual license fee to the City. The fee for this license can be obtained by calling (302) 645-7777 ext. 124 to reach the Permit Coordinator. The license year is January 1 – December 31. Gatherings of 25 people or more are not permitted outside a residential rental property.

A 5% gross residential receipt tax is due to the city for rental properties as well as bed and breakfast establishments not subject to the State of Delaware Lodging Tax. This tax can be paid monthly but must be paid in full by February 1 for the preceding year.

Waste Removal: Please refer to the calendar included in this mailing for collection dates and days for household trash, bulk trash, recycling, and yardwaste. Your annual property tax bill, also in this envelope, identifies which **Section** applies to your property. Information regarding acceptable material to be left curbside can be found on our website under the "Services" heading. Please remember all waste removal cans, material, and/or bags need to be placed at the curb no later than 6 AM on the day of pick-up. **Containers must be removed from the curbside within 24 hours after collection.**

Beginning June 3, recycling in addition to trash will be collected weekly on alternating days. If your trash is collected on Monday then your recycling will be collected Tuesday. If your trash is collected Tuesday, then your recycling will be collected Monday. Starting June 24, trash will be collected twice a week through September 6. If your trash is collected Monday it will also be collected Thursday. If your trash is collected Tuesday it will also be collected Friday.

If you have any questions, please contact City Hall at (302) 645-7777 or go to the City website and click on "Contact Us" in the upper right-hand corner to send us an email.

Safe Mobility: The City strongly encourages and promotes a safe pedestrian, bicycle, and skate friendly community.

Pedestrians have the right-of-way in crosswalks; **drivers must stop** if they see someone in a crosswalk. It is strongly recommended **pedestrians make eye contact with the driver of the vehicle** before proceeding in the crosswalk.

Bicyclists must obey all rules of the road, the same as vehicular traffic. This includes travelling in the same direction as vehicles on both two-way streets and one-way streets. Riding on city sidewalks is **only** permissible for bicyclists age 12 and younger. Use of helmets is strongly encouraged.

Bicycle Parking: The city has two locations specifically designed for bicyclists. At the corner of Savannah Road and Gills Neck Road is a 60+ bicycle parking lot that has a fix-it station and air compressor.

Additionally, the Lewes – Georgetown Trail has expanded to Nassau. A trailhead is located along the trail with restroom facilities, a fix-it station, and air compressor. There is also a trail from American Legion Road to Cape Henlopen State Park.

Parking: The City has parking meters located at Beach #1 (the end of Savannah Road with an additional entrance/exit at Virginia Avenue), Beach #2 (Georgia Avenue), 1812 Park, Canalfront Park, Second Street, Market Street, Bank Street, Front Street, and 3rd Street lot. The meter fee at Beach #1 and #2 is \$2.00 per hour while all other locations are \$1.00 per hour. * **NEW THIS YEAR** – Meters are in effect from **9 AM to 8 PM** everyday beginning May 1 through October 14, except the meters at Beach #1 & #2 which are in effect May 1 through September 30. Everyone must pay, including vehicles with handicapped plates and placards. In addition to accepting US quarters (and US currency at the station meters) all new meters accept credit cards (Visa, Mastercard & Discover) and ParkMobile. There is a 2-hour minimum charge for customers using a credit card or ParkMobile plus a \$0.50 transaction fee.

FREE PARKING is available at the corner of Schley and Franklin Avenues and at Otis Smith Park located along Savannah Road just past the Canal Bridge. The City also has two free electric charging stations in both lots.

BEACH BONFIRE / WEDDING CEREMONY / EVENT / RACE: Permits are required from the City for each of these events held in public places within the city. The request form can be obtained on the City's website under "Forms & Applications." Fees are: Beach Bonfire \$25; Wedding Ceremony \$200-\$400; Event / Race \$50 each; and Recreation Activities Permit \$100. Other restrictions and fees may apply. Please contact the City's Parks & Marina Administrator at (302) 645-7777 ext. 100 if you have any additional questions.

BEACH ACCESSIBLE WHEELCHAIRS: The City has two beach accessible wheelchairs for use getting onto Beach #1 or #2. If you or someone you know wants to use these chairs while visiting the beach from April to October, please contact the Parking Enforcement Supervisor weekdays 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM by calling (302) 645-6264 and pressing 112.

BEACHES ARE GUARDED: Beach #1 and #2 in the city will have certified lifeguards Memorial Day through Labor Day.

SMOKE-FREE AREAS: ALL City parks, beaches, and public crossings are smoke free and vape free. Please use designated ash stash waste receptacles at the entrance of each park and beach to properly dispose of cigarettes and cigars before entering these areas.

SUMMER CONCERTS IN THE PARK ARE FREE: The City, in sponsorship with WSFS Bank and the Delaware Division of the Arts, will hold summer concerts in Stango Park. This park is located adjacent to the Margaret H. Rollins Community Center at the corner of Adams Avenue and Kings Highway. All concerts will be held on Tuesday evening beginning at 7:00 PM. Using lawn chairs and blankets is welcome. In the event of inclement weather, concerts may be held at Cape Henlopen High School. In these situations, please call (302) 645-7777 and press 100 to confirm location.

EMERGENCY EVACUATION / SPECIAL NEEDS: Should you or a member of your household require special assistance during an emergency evacuation, please complete a "Special Needs Registration Form". This form can be found on our website under "Forms/Applications", then scroll to "Special Needs Registration Form". Print this form, complete the information requested, and mail it to the City of Lewes, ATTN: Special Needs Registration, P.O. Box 227, Lewes, Delaware 19958. If you have questions please contact the Lewes Police Department at (302) 645-6264.

SMART 911: This is a high-tech tool designed to give first responders important information during the critical seconds after calling 911. Smart911 enables residents to create a *Safety Profile* for his or her household by logging on to www.smart911.com. Personal information put in to this profile allows users to control their information which can then be available to first responders should the need arise wherever you travel in the United States as long as the Smart911 program is provided in that jurisdiction.

CodeRED: In the event of an emergency situation (e.g., severe weather, utility outages, or other urgent situations, etc.) residents and visitors can be notified of important information by signing up for CodeRED on the City's website. Just click on the CodeRED logo.

CITY EMAIL ALERTS: To receive email notifications regarding matters in and around the City, residents may register their name and email address on the City's website. Please go to our website and click on "Get Emails" on the right-hand side. If you are currently receiving email blasts from the City, re-enrollment is not necessary.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS: The City's Hazard Mitigation Committee has published an updated "Disaster Preparedness Starts at Home" booklet. Distribution of this booklet, filled with important disaster mitigation information, will occur during the months of April and May.

CITY ELECTION / VOTER ELIGIBILITY / VOTER

REGISTRATION: The City will not hold an election this year as there is no contested office.

Every person who is 18 years old on or before the date of an Annual Election and is a citizen of the United States and a full-time resident

of the City of Lewes, shall have one (1) vote provided he/she is registered on the Books of Registered Voters for the City of Lewes. A citizen of the City of Lewes includes any person who is a qualified voter of the State of Delaware and is a bona fide resident of the City of Lewes.

Persons meeting these qualifications are encouraged to register to vote at the City Manager's Office at any time by completing the required form and providing photo identification with proof of City of Lewes residency. Business hours of the Office of the City Manager are Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM, except holidays.

Voting eligibility requirements with the Lewes BPW are different than the City. Residents should confirm their voting eligibility status directly with the Lewes BPW by calling (302) 645-6268 or stop by their office at 107 Franklin Avenue.

FIREWORKS: Again this year, a free-to-public fireworks display will be held just off Lewes Beach. More information can be found by visiting www.gofourthlewes.com.

***Fireworks of any kind, including sky lanterns, are **illegal** to possess in Delaware. The Lewes Police Department will enforce this law to keep residents and visitors safe.

REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS

All meetings, unless otherwise noted or advertised, begin at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers at located City Hall 114 E. 3rd Street. Please check our website for the most up-to-date information.

Mayor & City Council	2 nd Monday
Parks & Recreation Commission	3 rd Monday
Lewes Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Comm.	2 nd Wednesday
Planning Commission	Every other month
Lewes BPW	3 rd Wednesday
	4 th Wednesday

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mayor	Theodore W. Becker Term expires 2022
Deputy Mayor	Fred Beaufait Term expires 2020
Treasurer	Bonnie Osler Term expires 2021
Secretary	Dennis Reardon Term expires 2020
Councilperson	Rob Morgan Term expires 2021

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Cape May - Lewes Ferry	1-800-643-3779
Delaware Solid Waste Authority	(302) 739-5361
Lewes BPW	(302) 645-6228
Lewes Chamber of Commerce	(302) 645-8073
Lewes Fire Department	
Emergency	911
Non-emergency	(302) 645-6556
Lewes Historical Society	(302) 645-7670
Lewes Public Library	(302) 645-2733
MERR Institute	
Marine Animal Rescue	(302) 228-5029
Sussex County Government Offices	(302) 855-7700

PROPERTY OWNERS – If you rent your property please consider keeping copies of this flyer and the Trash Schedule available to your tenants. This enables tenants to be informed of City events, rules & regulations. Additional copies of either document can be obtained at City Hall or on our website.

CITY OF LEWES CONTACT INFORMATION:

Website: www.ci.lewes.de.us

Street Address:
114 E. Third Street, Lewes, Delaware 19958

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 227, Lewes, Delaware 19958

City Hall Hours: 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Phone: (302) 645-7777