



2012 Year in Review

Speaking on behalf of the City of Lewes and the City Council, here is a look back at some of the events and issues addressed during 2012. These are just some highlighted points of interest. Many more topics were discussed and addressed by various committees, non-profits, City staff, and City Council. We hope you enjoy looking back at this exciting year of Lewes history. As the City Council continues to strive to provide representation and service to our constituents of this exceptional community, please feel free to contact us with your concerns or comments.

Council Actions:

- City Election: Barbara Vaughan steps down from City Council, Bonnie Osler is newly elected, Deputy Mayor Ted Becker and Mayor Jim Ford are reelected.
- Re-Instatement of the Lewes Board of Ethics
- Final approval of Anglers Nest Subdivision
- Charter amendments regarding new districts for State Senator and Representative as well as the modifications relating to the competitive bidding process were approved. Senator Gary Simpson and Representative Ruth Briggs-King both are reelected to new districts. Lewes has new representation in the General Assembly with Senator Ernie Lopez and Representative Steve Smyk.
- Council approved amendments to Chapter 197- The Zoning Code of the City of Lewes
- Formation of Ad-Hoc Traffic Safety Management Advisory Committee

Capital Projects:

- Abolished the Street Improvement Committee and established the Capital Projects Committee
- Working with the Greater Lewes Foundation and the Board of the Lewes Public Library, purchase of the Thompson Property for future community uses
- Saw completion of the Bay Ave rehabilitation project, reversed traffic flow on Bay Ave.
- Removed the bump outs on DeVires Circle
- Improved the Monroe Ave. Railroad Crossing
- Accepted the conceptual plan for Transportation Enhancement Funds to improve the entrance area to the Lewes Little League complex, partnership with Little League, Lewes Historical Society, the Overfalls Foundation
- Saw installation of natural gas service to some locations by agreement with Chesapeake Utilities
- Purchased new radar monitoring trailer
- Purchased new trash truck
- Purchased and implemented new administration accounting software program
- Extended use of credit cards for parking meters

Parks and Recreation:

- Approved conceptual plan and location of the request from Lewes Unleashed for the location of a dog park
- Discussed permitting alcohol consumption in city parks, Picnic in the Park at the Canalfront Park was an initial trial event and was very successful
- Accepted standardization of Parks signs
- Partnerships with the community to provide shade awning at Canalfront Park playground, Bocce Ball courts at George H. P. Smith Park, Children's Teaching Garden in Stango Park
- Approved Overfalls Foundation request for additional interactive maritime heritage display elements

General:

- Participated in the Jefferson Awards and Global Youth Service Day, with a partnership with Cape Henlopen High School, and held first annual City of Lewes Food drive with Delaware Food Bank.
- Held workshop for walk-ability audit and future land uses on City leased and owned open space lands; begin working with Cape Henlopen School District to participate in Safe Streets to School Program.
- Received the DeIDot report regarding Rails with Trails proposal and location of trail head within the City
- Saw beginning of Water Taxi service between Lewes, Rehoboth Beach, and Dewey Beach
- Encountered the wrath of Super Storm Sandy and weathered it well
- Continued to address All Hazards and Climate Adaptation document recommendations, including attending training sessions and public outreach programs
- Recognized Families of Service People with Yellow Ribbon event at the Canalfront Park
- Recognized the 50 Anniversary of the Lewes Historical Society
- Recognized the 100 Anniversary of the Lewes Police Department
- Achieved Bronze Award for a Bicycle Friendly Community
- Lewes in Bloom receives the Circle of Champions Award from America in Bloom
- Lewes Farmers Market ranked Number One in the State
- Lewes Fire Department initiates Traffic Control Unit

We look forward to another exciting and outstanding year in Lewes and thank everyone for your participation in our community. While we have many accomplishments, we will also face numerous challenges as we move forward. With your help, we will continue to be successful in maintaining our unprecedented quality of life for the Lewes community.

Mayor Jim Ford