



### **Annual Membership Meeting on Saturday, June 14**

BBLA's annual membership meeting will be held this year on Saturday, June 14 at the Town Hall beginning at 10:00AM. Our guest speaker will be US Senator Tom Carper. All BBLA members are invited to attend. The meeting will be open to the public. A short business meeting for the purposes of electing officers and Board members will be held after we hear from our guest speaker. Everyone who has paid their dues for 2014 is eligible to vote in this election and is also eligible to serve as an officer or a Board member. Please plan on attending. We look forward to seeing you on June 14!

### **Farmers' Market Begins June 15 (Volunteer Openings Still Available)**

The BBLA-sponsored Farmers' Market will return for its eighth season this year, on Sunday mornings from June 15 to August 31, from 8 AM to 12 Noon, at the PNC Bank parking lot on Garfield Parkway and Pennsylvania Avenue.

With a "sell what you grow" policy for farmers, the market features a wide variety of locally grown, freshly picked farm produce, as well as baked goods and other products popular with area residents and our many visitors. Visit the market website at <http://www.bethanybeachfarmersmarket.com> for more information.

The market began as a BBLA and Bennett Orchard initiative in 2007 with an initial start-up contribution from BBLA, helpful support from the Town Council and PNC Bank and a cooperative arrangement with the Women's Civic Club. Since that time it has become a popular attraction and huge success on Sundays during the season. That success is due to the care and efforts of participating farmers and many citizen volunteers, supported by the Town, businesses, the Women's Civic Club and BBLA. BBLA volunteers Dan Costello, John Himmelberg, Steve Wode and Margaret Young deserve special recognition.

Volunteers are still needed and openings are available. One team works under the tent greeting visitors, answering questions and selling market tote bags, T-shirts and, soon, the new "A Walk Through History" booklet about Bethany Beach (see article below). Volunteers for this team are coordinated by Margaret Young, who can be contacted by e-mail at [margaretatbb@verizon.net](mailto:margaretatbb@verizon.net) or by phone (302) 539-9228. Another team helps with tent and traffic arrangements and ensures that the site runs smoothly. An experienced market manager is available to provide guidance.

If you would like to volunteer to help in this worthwhile community activity in any way and discuss schedules and other details, please contact Dan Costello by e-mail at [dancostello2@verizon.net](mailto:dancostello2@verizon.net) or Julie Malewski, the designated Town staff coordinator, by phone at (302) 539-8011 (extension 123). Individuals don't have to volunteer for every Sunday, although commitment for at least two Sundays would be helpful for scheduling efficiency. You will find the compensation is great. Volunteers receive a Farmers' Market T-shirt and many enjoyable moments meeting friendly and interesting people.

## Highlight of Survey on Development of the Town Park

In preparation for deliberations on the development of the future Town park (formerly referred to as the Church-Neff property), the Town Council conducted a survey to determine the opinions of property owners/taxpayers on the matter. The results of the survey on how to develop the 6-acre site at the Northwest corner of Route 26 (Garfield Parkway) and Route 1 (Coastal Highway) have been posted on the Town website. Following are a few highlights.

- Approximately 967 responses were received.
- As to various possible uses and features, here are some of the breakdowns (percentages are approximate and may not add up to 100% in each case):
  - Create a park that features open space with elements that accentuate the natural beauty of the property (for example, gardens, paths, water features and benches): 80% agree or strongly agree; 14% disagree or strongly disagree; 6% neutral.
  - Use to host community events: 52% agree or strongly agree; 29% disagree or strongly disagree; 18% neutral.
  - Include some recreation elements that would have a minimal impact on the natural feature of the park: 53% agree or strongly agree; 27% disagree or strongly disagree; 18% neutral.
  - Include water features: 41% agree or strongly agree; 38% disagree or strongly disagree; 21% neutral.

As to the possible frequency of use of certain named features that might be included in the Park, the majority responses, in approximate percentages, were as follows:

- Playground for small children: 62% would seldom use.
- Park benches: 76% would use
- Picnic areas/shelters/pavilions: 65% would seldom use.
- Fitness/exercise stations: 53% would use.

For more detailed information on the complete survey, to include respondent comments, visit the Town website: [www.townofbethanybeach.com](http://www.townofbethanybeach.com).

## Status of New Hotel

Demolition of the Bethany Arms should be complete by the time this newsletter is received and pile driving should be underway. Pile driving should start about May 5 as many pilings have been delivered to the site. The developer advises that pile driving should be completed within 10 to 12 business days and prior to Memorial Day (although Town ordinances would allow that work until June 13 of this year.) The developer also advises they have not had final settlement with the owners of the property but that the owners allowed work to begin under their permits while waiting on the bank to close. Some but not all the permits have been obtained.

Construction will continue through the Summer during the hours prescribed in long-standing town ordinances, specifically from 8AM to 5:30 PM on weekdays and 8AM to noon on Saturdays until May 30th. No work will be permitted on the weekends after May 30<sup>th</sup>. The end of Hollywood Street between Atlantic Avenue and the beach will be closed to traffic during the construction period for safety reasons and will reopen for traffic and parking when the construction in the area is completed. A protected 8-foot wide pedestrian access to the beach will be provided after the foundation work has been completed. The developer anticipates that the hotel will open in the Spring of 2015.

## **Streetscape Project**

The Delaware Department of Transportation has announced that the Streetscape Project will be stopped in mid-May and resume again in mid-October 2014. Severe winter weather caused numerous delays in the work schedule. At the Town's request, DELDOT officials decided to postpone work in the loop area in front of the lifeguard building until the Fall. Recognizing that the loop area is the hub of the downtown business area and a major access point to the beach and bandstand, DELDOT decided to avoid the risk that more inclement weather would push the work into the Summer tourist season.

It is expected that the work that continues as of this writing in the 100 block of Garfield will be completed by Memorial Day. In addition, with additional funds made available through the efforts of State Senator Gerald Hocker, the Streetscape Project was expanded to include sidewalk work on North Pennsylvania Avenue from Garfield Parkway to Central Avenue. The Town Manager expressed appreciation to DELDOT for consideration of the Town's postponement request and to Senator Hocker for his efforts on the Town's behalf.

## **Results of BBLA's Boardwalk Widening Survey**

The 811 responses received so far to BBLA's survey on the issue of whether the boardwalk should be widened have been divided into three categories and tabulated as follows:

<b>OPTION</b>	<b>NUMBER OF VOTES</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE OF VOTES</b>
<b>Widen entire length</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>Partial widening</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>29%</b>
<b>No widening</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>46%</b>
<b>TOTAL VOTES</b>	<b>811</b>	<b>100%</b>

Of the total responses, approximately 220 included comments. We intend to post a summary of the survey and comments received on the BBLA website: [www.bbla.us](http://www.bbla.us).

## **Route 26 Widening Project**

Work on the project from Clarksville to Glen Drive in Bethany Beach has begun with advance utility and sewer relocation and other work. The project is expected to take at least 2-1/2 years with completion by the Fall of 2016.

As previously reported, construction may occur at multiple locations along the 4-mile stretch of road at the same time. After May 15 night work will begin. Our understanding from DELDOT briefings is that to alleviate some of the congestion during the tourist season, lane closures will not be permitted during the day and two lanes of traffic must be maintained.

The DELDOT has been very helpful in providing information on the project work schedule and lane closures through monthly town meetings and other public information services. Individuals can register for weekly e-mail updates or download a smart phone application at [www.SR26.deldot.gov](http://www.SR26.deldot.gov). They can also contact the DELDOT public information office by phone at (800) 652-5600 or (302) 760-2080, or by e-mail at [dotpr@state.de.us](mailto:dotpr@state.de.us).

## **Update on Flood Insurance Legislation**

This Spring, Congress passed, and the President signed into law, the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act, which, like the 2012 flood insurance reform legislation, affects our properties in Bethany Beach. If you have a mortgage, you will likely need to have flood insurance. You may wish to have flood insurance even if you do not have a mortgage, as standard homeowner's insurance does not cover flooding. In general, subsidized flood insurance rates will still go up, but primary-residence rates may rise more gradually than they might have before this recent legislation (and more gradually than second-home rates). There will be a surcharge of \$25-\$250, to help cover the cost of the remaining/diminishing subsidies. The BBLA will continue to pass along information as we learn it and as the changes are phased in over several months, but it may be important to talk to your insurance agent. There are some grandfathering rules that may be affected if you change your coverage. For more information you may wish to visit the following websites:

<http://www.sussexcountyde.gov/FIRM>

<http://delawareinsurance.gov/departments/consumer/flood.shtml>

[https://www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart/pages/about/nfip\\_overview.jsp](https://www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart/pages/about/nfip_overview.jsp)

## **New Edition of *A Walk Through History* Booklet**

The Bethany Beach Landowners Association (BBLA) was established in 1969 to serve the interests of its members and the community. In 1976, as a public service, BBLA published a pamphlet entitled, "A Walk Through History," to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Bethany Beach. The pamphlet was updated and republished in 1991 and 2001.

Over the last year, BBLA volunteers Dan Costello and Margaret Young, have developed a revised and expanded version of the historical guide. This new edition contains additional interesting and useful information about Bethany Beach, as well as many additional historical pictures of the Town. We expect the booklet to be available soon.

The 2014 booklet is dedicated to Val Montanari, the editor of the original pamphlet. Val served as President of BBLA, was instrumental in founding Bethany's first museum and served as the Town's official historian.

## **BBLA Presentation to the Town Council**

On April 21 BBLA Vice President Mike Horne and Secretary Tracy Mulligan appeared at a Town Council workshop meeting to give Council members and the Town Manager an update on BBLA's recent activities. The results of BBLA's survey on boardwalk widening (see above) were outlined and copies of various tabulations and summaries of member comments and suggestions were given to each Council member and the Manager. Changes in the operating structure of the Farmer's Market were explained, along with the need for volunteers (see above). The forthcoming new edition of "A Walk Through History" was described (see above). Also, some additional background information on the purposes and activities of BBLA over the years was provided. Mayor Jack Gordon and the other Council members attending expressed their appreciation for the presentation.

## **Miscellaneous Updates**

Parking. The Town will add a new pay-by-phone technology, Parkmobile, this tourist season to make payment easier. Utilizing a Parkmobile app on a smart phone, individuals will be able to purchase, monitor and add time as needed for their parking.

Water Tower. Construction of the new water tower is complete and painting has begun. In response to resident complaints about noise from a generator, the Town purchased a new high efficiency muffler, which is expected to alleviate the problem. Further tower-related work will be postponed during the Summer and begin again in the Fall with construction of a new pump house and landscaping improvements. It is expected that the new tower will be ready to store water in January 2015.

Bandstand and Beach Activities. The Town is upgrading the sound and lighting system at the bandstand. The improvements are expected to enhance audience enjoyment of performances. The Movies on the Beach schedule and information about the Exercise on the Beach programs will be posted on the Town website.

## **Trash Collection Schedule For May 1 – September 30**

Just as a quick reminder, the Town has published the following schedule for trash collection for the season (and beyond for some material):

Regular trash (twice a week). For Zone 1, every Monday and Friday; for Zone 2, every Tuesday and Saturday. (Visit [www.townofbethanybeach.com](http://www.townofbethanybeach.com) to review the zone map.)

Residential dumpsters at townhomes will be picked up every Monday, Wednesday and Friday; and commercial dumpsters every day.

Recycle items (once a week). For Zone 1, every Wednesday; for Zone 2, every Thursday.

Yard waste will be picked up every Tuesday from May 1 through December 31. Waste must be in heavy-duty paper yard waste bags or labeled containers. A minimum \$40 fine will be assessed for collections not properly prepared.

Free bulk collections of acceptable items will be picked up the last two weeks in October, on days the Public Works Department schedule permits. (The Spring free bulk collection ended on May 5.) Special collections of bulk items can also be arranged through PWD. Visit the town website for a list of acceptable bulk items.

## **Newsletter Contributors**

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