



www.bbla.us

August 2018

One way BBLA serves the community is by providing information on candidates for Town Council, and on voting procedures. BBLA encourages citizens to be knowledgeable and to vote.

This year there are six candidates for four open seats. They are Faith Denault, Larry Fishel, R. Bruce Frye, Rosemary Hardiman, Lew Killmer, and Jim Sirkis.

BBLA sends the same questions to each candidate and sends the candidates' responses to all town households in a print newsletter. The responses are published exactly as provided by the candidate, with one page allocated to each candidate. BBLA mails this Candidates' Newsletter to all 2500 households which contain approximately 4500 eligible voters. In addition to the mailing, the Newsletter will be available on the BBLA website. [www.bbla.us](http://www.bbla.us)

BBLA, founded in 1969, has been doing this for many years and many elections. The Board views this as a service to the 1300 BBLA member households and to the entire community.

Below are this year's questions/topics.

1. **Background and experience.** Please provide a short summary of your background and experience relevant to serving on the Bethany Beach Town Council.
2. **Looking Forward.** What are two of the most important issues or goals facing the Town in the next five years and how would you recommend they be addressed?
3. **Looking Back.** Please identify one or two Council actions in the last two years that you consider to have been especially beneficial to our community. Are there any other actions you think should be reconsidered?
4. **Specific Issues.** Please provide brief comments on one or more of these issues of interest: Future Development; Improved Technology; Improved Vehicle, Pedestrian, Cycle Traffic/Safety.

Voting options.

1. In person at Town Hall on Saturday September 8 from noon to 6PM
2. By absentee ballot in person at Town Hall during normal business hours or on Saturdays Aug 18, Aug 25, Sept 1.
3. By absentee ballot by mail.
  - Bethany Beach property owners who are listed on the Town's property tax list are not required to register to vote in Town elections"
  - It is our understanding that the affidavit used to obtain an absentee ballot does not have to be notarized. BB voters should use column A.

#### "VOTING BY ABSENTEE BALLOT IN PERSON (ONE-STEP, WALK IN PROCESS)

You may vote in person by visiting Town Hall anytime from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, or on the last three (3) SATURDAYS before the election. (August 18th, August 25th and September 1st). Saturday hours are 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Ask for the official request form (affidavit) for an absentee ballot, complete the form and return it. You will then be given your absentee ballot. Mark the names of the candidates of your choice, following the instructions very carefully, and hand in your ballot then and there.

#### VOTING BY ABSENTEE BALLOT BY MAIL (TWO STEPS)

You must obtain, complete and return an official request for an absentee ballot.

A copy of the official request form (an affidavit) can be obtained by calling Town Hall at (302) 537-3771, stopping by the receptionist's window in Town Hall, or downloading a copy at <http://townofbethanybeach.com/DocumentCenter/View/4339/Affidavit-Final-2018>

Complete and sign the request form and return it to Town Hall, by mail or in person. When your absentee ballot arrives, complete it with care, follow all of the instructions, and return it to Town Hall, by mail or in person."

## Faith Denault

Hi neighbors! My name is Faith Denault and I'm asking for your vote for the Bethany Beach Town Council. The BBLA has asked each candidate 4 questions for publication. Here are my answers.

- 1. Background and experience.** My late husband and I retired to Bethany Beach in 2000 and our 12 Grandchildren are 4<sup>th</sup> generation Bethany lovers. Once settled, I started looking for ways to volunteer in the community. I have served as President of the Friends of the South Coastal Library and Chair of the Beach and Bay Cottage Tour. I am currently a member of the Bethany Beach Planning and Zoning Commission. I have served on Bethany's Election Board and the Seaside Craft Show Committee and the Board of Advisors of the Quiet Resort Charitable Foundation. I volunteered for Meals on Wheels for many years. In my 50+ year professional career, I held many responsible positions and led many diverse corporate functions. When I retired from corporate America I was Vice President of Real Estate, Facilities and Business Services of a rapidly growing corporation. I was responsible for an \$800M corporate real estate capital and operating budget supporting over 3+ million square feet of owned and leased office space and data centers world-wide. I led a department of 93 full time employees and numerous contract employees. My department was responsible for office leasing, new building construction, building operations, security, food services, flight operations and travel services, purchasing, mail and fitness center operations, and corporate risk/insurance programs. Through my experiences I have been a trusted partner with the ability to diplomatically work with a variety of individuals from CEO's, real estate professionals, architects, construction contractors to state and local government agencies.
- 2. Looking Forward.** (A) Financial Viability. Bethany's Council has always been very proactive in its solid and prudent financial planning. I hope to encourage and participate in the efforts of continuing the financial viability of the town through research, strict budgeting and best investment practices; (B) Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety. The town should finish the improvements along S. Atlantic Avenue and research funding opportunities for improvements to S. Pennsylvania Ave. as soon as is practical; (C) Sea Level Rise. This issue is very much a concern for our town as well as the entire eastern seaboard. It will be addressed through continued action with the Association of Coastal Towns (ACT) that includes seven towns from Lewes to Fenwick Island. Political action is ongoing with Federal and State agencies and the US Army Corps of Engineers. We also must look at developing an ordinance for permeable surface requirements for future residential and commercial building in Bethany.
- 3. Looking Back.** (A) The bulk density ordinance that addresses proliferation of salt-box-type low pitch roof buildings to preserve the cottage nature of the town; (B) The soon to be finished development of S. Atlantic Ave. along with Cedarwood Street.
- 4. Specific Issues.** (A) Develop S. Pennsylvania Ave. as is being done on S. Atlantic for pedestrian and cyclist safety; (B) Investigate bringing quality Wi-Fi services to the town with a common-sense approach to expense, esthetics, and long-term viability; and (C) Expedite completion of Bethany's Central Park.

## Larry Fishel

I was not planning to run for Town Council this year, but was repeatedly encouraged to bring a different perspective, and individuality of opinion that has in my assessment been missing and discouraged in the Council. A perception is that they and the Town Manager "know what is best for us", and don't always listen to what the citizens want. The occasional survey, while valuable can't replace active listening.

I continue to be Partner/ President of a very busy group mental health practice in Baltimore. My areas of work include a forensic specialty involving criminal, civil, and domestic matters. I have also consulted with numerous organizations, a college and ran an EAP and consulted for a County government for 23 years. In Baltimore I am on the Underage Drinking Coalition, and the Sex Offender Containment Team, and frequently testify in Court. I am on a national credentialing and quality assurance committee for an insurance company, and have been asked to sit on another one. In the 1980s, I was the President of our Homeowners association. In my tenure, we improved the relationship and services our community received from the utility company, and had cable T.V installed in our neighborhood. In Bethany, I chaired the BBLA Board of Directors bylaws committee, arranged and negotiated our first liability coverage. I also serve on the Board of our Farmers Market and served on The Planning and Zoning Commission, Communications Committee, and 4th of July Parade Committee.

I also identify with the many property owners in Bethany who are not full time residents, and continue to work. I have the perspective of an oceanfront property owner heretofore, unrepresented on Council. People who rent in or visit Bethany come for the ocean and the activities east of route one. Yet our Council has recently consisted only of individuals who live west of route one and can't have that perspective. They are not directly affected by beach noise, continued walking on the dunes (despite the fences), and the impromptu gatherings under the boardwalk, as well as the flooding that they seem to have no solution for on Pennsylvania Avenue.

My observations of Council is that they are while well meaning, good people, they defer to the Town Manager, who in my opinion runs the town. While Cliff, the Town Manager has returned every call I place to him and has met with me every time I have asked, I feel there have been some failures, specifically our connectivity that Council has not addressed. I was informed by my friend Rosemary who is a diligent Council member that she thought Cliff has met with Bloosurf, the organization that the State recommended I talk with to help us with connectivity when I was on the planning commission. I checked with their president whom I was working with while on the commission. There have been no meetings or talks. Whoever is on Council should resume talks with them. My friend Lew, who works tirelessly for Bethany, told me that the town's service will improve soon. I was told the same thing last year, and nothing has happened. Small towns all around Bethany have better service than us, because in my opinion they pursued it more effectively.

I was told things with connectivity are happening" behind the scenes". That, in my opinion is a lack of transparency that plagues the Council and to my knowledge there have been no results. In 2 years of attending T.C meetings, I saw only one vote that was not unanimous. The direction the Town is taking with new establishments that do not distinguish us from surrounding communities is troubling to me.

Crime occurs everywhere. Bethany is not immune. Denying that it happens, in my professional experience will lead to more crime. Offering guidance and training as to how to be more alert to suspicious behavior and how to protect your possessions would be beneficial. Cliff, who in my opinion is the defacto police chief, cannot serve in that capacity, also be the lead in" improving the internet", and perform all of the other duties that I feel the Council cedes to him. No one can. Regardless of who serves on the Council, they have to have the initiative, ability to listen and willingness to assume the authority of the office, and not defer it.  
Larry Fishel, 443-690-3801

## R. Bruce Frye

### Background and experience

We moved full time to Bethany Beach in 2010 and I began attending Town Council and committee meetings that year joining the Board of Adjustment and the Charter & Ordinance Review Comm. That culminated in my election to the town council in 2014. I have served 2 terms on Council and have become the chair of the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade committee for 4 years. Since my education and professional background are in science and industry (PhD from MIT, 30yrs. at the General Electric Company, 13 patents), I have been particularly interested in our beach and in maintaining our wetlands. To that end I joined the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association and have attended their annual conferences in Washington D.C. In addition I have completed 24 credit hours of training in the University of Delaware's Institute for Public Administration (including Master Planning, Board of Adjustment, Freedom of Information, and Resilient Communities). I am a native of Delaware, spent summers at the beach, and continued that tradition with my own family at Bethany Beach for 20 years. We became full time residents in 2010 where I have served as president of our home owners association for the past 7 years. [See also [Facebook.com/brucefryeBB](https://www.facebook.com/brucefryeBB)]

### Looking Forward

The responsibilities of the town council include improving infrastructure, safety, budget, communications and policies. Two key focuses for me are: (1) Maintaining fiscal health, because it largely determines what else can be done. Bethany Beach has a sound fiscal policy but requires constant attention and long term planning to maintain; as a councilman I support strong fiscal controls and addressing issues sooner rather than later; (2) Working with our neighboring communities to address nature, whether it is storms, sea level rise, or beach erosion. The Association of Coastal Towns is a good start to a regional approach to adapt to nature, become more resilient, and be prepared to act quickly when disaster strikes (Storm Emergency Relief Fund). My scientific background will help in charting our course.

### Looking Back

The Council must represent the entire community. In some cases it has been difficult to determine the sense of the community from meetings and casual conversations. But when we had doubts we surveyed all residents, communicating the issue and gathering data for a good decision that supported the majority view without crushing the minority. This approach worked for approving the Ocean Suites Hotel, selecting the Dinker House location, and most recently restricting canopies and tents on the beach. I think this process (in addition to public hearings) can be useful when controversial issues arise in the future.

### Specific Issues

**Future Development** Our goal is to keep Bethany Beach the quiet resort that its residents want. Well-designed building codes are keeping out high rise structures and encouraging attractive buildings that fit with the quiet resort. The free-board provision helps prepare new construction for flooding and can reduce flood insurance costs. Infrastructure improvement will remain a focus.

**Improved Technology;** 5G (5<sup>th</sup> generation telecom) is coming and the town is being proactive in attempting to create rules that balance the needs of residents, businesses, and the suppliers. This will be a major change over several years and could influence not only cell service, but automated cars, entertainment, and much more. Another "technology" for the town is permeable road surfaces. This seems to be working well on South Atlantic and I will encourage expanding this technology throughout the town to reduce standing water.

**Improved Vehicle, Pedestrian, Cycle Traffic/Safety.** Safety is very important to all. As roads and walkways are upgraded, it is an opportunity to design in safety and bring our town into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act rules. We must continue working with our town engineer to ensure safety is imbedded in any engineering project.

## ROSEMARY HARDIMAN

### 1. Background and experience that have equipped me to be a more effective Council member.

- Member of Town Council since 2014. Prior service on various Town committees: Charter and Ordinance Review (member and Chair); Communications (member and Chair) and Recycling. Member, Delaware League of Local Governments Legislative Advocacy Committee. Earned Certificates from University of Delaware in: Excellence in Local Government Leadership; and Planning.
- Elected by Sussex County Council as member and later president of its Library Advisory Board; represented County on Delaware Council of Libraries. Board Member, Friends of South Coastal Library.
- Maintain communication with citizens through various other community volunteer activities, including: Women's Civic Club; St. Ann's Church; Farmers' Market; and VFW Post 7234.
- Previous experience as Secretary of the Board and Deputy Executive Director of federal financial regulatory agency (NCUA); later as attorney in private practice providing legal advice/representation to credit unions.

2. **Looking Forward.** a. An important goal is to continue efforts to keep Bethany Beach a family-friendly and safe community. This requires balancing the rights and interests of residential property owners, businesses and an increasing number of visitors. Continued support for our professional Police Department is essential in reducing an already very low crime rate. Fundamental to success is our commitment to encouraging and providing for two-way communication with citizens, as Council did in considering the use of shading devices on the beach and design of the Town park.

b. Another important goal is to ensure the long-term financial stability of the Town in our planning, especially in addressing and prioritizing capital improvements and other projects, including street improvements; Park development; and possible municipal Wi-Fi.

3. **Looking Back.** a. One particularly beneficial action over the last two years was the recent beach replenishment and dune repair, which protects the Town's infrastructure. This involved a significant amount of effort and coordination with our legislators, federal (Corps of Engineers) and state (DNREC) agencies, and neighboring beach communities. (Major credit for coordination must also go to our Town Manager and staff.) These efforts, especially to secure funding, must continue in the future. The current Council continues to earmark reserves for the Storm Emergency Relief Fund (SERF) to pay the Town's share (determined by FEMA) of the cost of infrastructure repair/replacement.

b. Another noteworthy action was the denial of an application for a subdivision that would have involved filling in wetlands and exacerbated flooding in communities along the Loop Canal. The action is representative of the Council's ongoing efforts to address flooding issues.

4. **Specific Issues.** a. Improved Technology. Dependable high-speed Internet service is essential. Based on experience with Mediacom's service and the unwillingness of Comcast and others to invest in serving Bethany, the Town is studying other options, such as a public utility or partnering with another provider. A number of providers have been vetted in this process. Up-front and ongoing costs as well as provider capability and performance record must be considered in evaluating options to meet this important need.

b. Improved Vehicle, Pedestrian, Cycle Traffic/Safety. Our streets were never intended to accommodate the current volume of summer traffic. Several projects and plans to improve safety on heavily traveled streets, based on necessary traffic and engineering studies, have been approved by the current Council, including: the repaving and addition of pedestrian/bike paths on S. Atlantic and Cedarwood; future plans for S. Pennsylvania, N. Atlantic and Collins St. Also noteworthy is our Police Dept. program to provide safety training and free helmets for foreign students employed in Town. With input from citizens and engineers, Council continues to evaluate and address the Town's traffic safety challenges.

*[Thanks to BBLA for providing this voter service!]*

# Lew Killmer

## 1. Lew Killmer's Background and Experience:

Several years ago my colleagues on Town Council showed confidence in my leadership by choosing me to be the current Vice Mayor of Bethany Beach. I will soon be completing my 12<sup>th</sup> year of serving on the Town Council. I am also the Town Council representative on the Planning and Zoning Commission as well as the chairperson of the Non-Residential Design Review Committee.

I am also the current president of the Delaware League of Local Governments (DLLG) that represents all 57 municipalities and the 3 counties in Dover. The following is a list of committees that I currently serve on or have served on recently:

- Executive Committee and the Legislative Action Committee of the DLLG
- Steering Committee of the Sussex County Association of Towns
- Advisory Committee of The Association of Coastal Towns
- Regulatory Advisory Committee (RAC) for the State of Delaware
- A member of the Resilient and Sustainable Communities League (RASCL) of the U of D.
- State Sea Level Rise Committee (2016-2017)
- State Clean Water Task Force (2017)
- Senate Bill 64 Committee that focused on Flood Damage Prevention and Storm water Management (2017)

## 2. Looking Forward:

The next five years can be very challenging not only for Bethany Beach but also for all of the coastal communities in Delaware. The economic future as well as the protection of our homes and commercial businesses depends on regular maintenance of our dunes and the replenishment of our beaches. How often this is done and who in the future will be responsible for funding it is the big question!

The average age of a typical resident of Bethany Beach is 67 years old! How do we as Town leaders attract more young professionals and their families to make Bethany Beach not only their family summer vacation destination or even perhaps their future hometown? One glaring obstacle is the unavailability of reliable high speed Internet connectivity. The Town has been looking at a number of options such as providing town wide wireless internet as well as potentially partnering with large telecommunication companies to provide this critical service.

## 3. Looking Back:

The single most significant action that the Town Council has enthusiastically supported and approved was the addition of a Marriott Residence Inn in the Downtown Commercial District. For the Town to continually evolve and prosper the Town needs to slowly but steadily become a more year round community and not simply be known as a summertime vacation destination.

The Town's Planning and Zoning Commission working with our Town Building Inspector, Susan Frederick and with the approval of the Town Council created a new ordinance that regulates the size of new residential construction by using a system of tradeoffs that both protects the look and feel of existing neighborhoods as well as offering a degree of flexibility to future owners of residential properties.

## 4. Specific Issues:

- Complete the Streetscape Project for South Atlantic and Cedarwood this fall and design and fund the addition of sidewalks, bike paths and repave the street with permeable asphalt to the roadway for South Pennsylvania Avenue from Cedarwood to Garfield Parkway.
- After receiving final approval from various regulatory agencies, begin to construct the Town Park.
- Continue to fund SERF (Storm Emergency Relief Fund).

## James E. Sirkis

### Background & Experience:

Hello, I'm James (Jim) Sirkis and I'm interested in serving on the Town Council of Bethany Beach. I live in Bethany with my beautiful fiancé, Carla, and my wonderful children Alexa and Nate. We also have a cat named Zorro and a black lab named Benji, who many residents recognize from our walks. What I love most about our walks is meeting the people in town and discussing all the great things happening.

I'm lucky to be a part of this great community! During the 1970's, my aunt & uncle introduced me to Bethany. I loved it so much that in 2013 I purchased a home on Central Blvd. Realizing all the wonderful experiences it offers my family, Bethany became my permanent home in 2016. Now that I'm retired and have additional time, I want to serve the people of Bethany!

My diverse work and volunteer experience, my leadership roles and people skills, and my desire to give back, have prepared me to serve on the Town Council.

My volunteer experience includes:

- Cheer Senior Center in Ocean View, server/dishwasher
- Havre de Grace Lions Club, VP/previously held all board positions
- American Cancer Society driver
- Math and science tutor

My educational/professional experience includes:

- MS Management, BS Computer Science
- Founder/Owner of Log.Sec Corporation, an IT and logistics government contractor. Built company to almost 400 employees and sold it.
- Analyst/software developer/manager

### Looking Forward:

I feel the two most important issues facing the town are:

1) Tidal flooding on Pennsylvania Ave - This presents an urgent challenge to the homes, businesses, and parking of Bethany. The town did an excellent job selecting the contractor to pave Atlantic Ave. We should follow their example using porous asphalt and dredge the canal off 1st St. to solve the drainage problem.

2) Parking - As more people discover the beauties of Bethany, the parking issue will continue to grow. Many people get frustrated looking for parking and leave, resulting in our town and businesses suffering. My solution is to identify land where we can offer a pay-lot with shuttle service.

### Looking Back:

In the last two years, the town did fantastic selecting the paving contractor for Atlantic Ave. However, I realized once the walkways, bike paths, and parking spaces were striped, there was room for improvement. The town has also done great enhancing the beauty of Bethany with flower gardens and trees along Garfield Parkway, Coastal Highway, and at the ends of many streets. If you drive through our neighboring beaches, nothing looks as beautiful as our beloved Bethany Beach.

### Specific Issues - Improved Technology:

The people of Bethany deserve more options when it comes to high speed Internet providers, and I will strive to make that happen. With my background in IT, I can help identify potential solutions for a "reliable" Internet provider for our residents and merchants. We all use the Internet on a daily basis, and the only "real" high speed provider in town is Mediacom. Their service is so unreliable that many people I know have switched back to Verizon DSL which is extremely slow. Many residents are extremely frustrated with this problem.

While there are some challenges that our community faces, Bethany Beach is a great town, with friendly people, and amazing families that love coming here year after year. I want to work with the Town Council to keep Bethany Beach as the family beach that we all know and love, while making it an even better, more connected town. So next time you're walking through the town and see a big guy walking a black lab, it's probably me, stop and say hello. I'd love to meet you. It would be my honor and privilege to serve you and this community. Thank you for the opportunity to run for Town Council.

# **BBLA Questions for Six candidates for Bethany Beach Town Council.**

For many years BBLA has posed questions to candidates for the Bethany Beach Town Council and sent their answers to all households. This year there are six candidates. Each has a page and their answers to four questions are in their own wording.

BBLA encourages citizens to become familiar with the issues and candidates and to vote.

## **Voting Basics**

1. Any property owner is registered to vote.
2. Polls are open from noon to 6PM on Saturday Sept 8 at the Town Hall.
3. Absentee Ballots are available at Town Hall or by mail from the Town.
4. Voters may vote prior to Sept 8 by absentee ballot, either by mail or in one visit to Town Hall from 8 to 4 on weekdays or from 8 to 2 on three Saturdays of August. 18, Aug 25 and Sept 1.

Mailing Address

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