

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT
NOVEMBER 2013

➤ **Holiday Tree Lighting in the Park and More**

December 14 will provide an afternoon of activities for all ages. From noon until 3:00pm the Ocean View Historic Society will host a holiday tour of their exhibits. Santa will arrive at Town Hall at 3:00pm and Sunshine Entertainment will provide a face painter and balloon artist to entertain the children. The Delaware Seaside Train Club has offered to set-up a train display in Town Hall. Hot chocolate and cookies will be served and the tree lighting and caroling will take place at 5:00pm. At 5:30pm Mariner's Bethel Church will present a Live Nativity Program.

➤ **Homecoming Event**

The next Homecoming Event is scheduled to be held on Saturday, May 10, 2014, rain or shine. The committee meets again on November 13. The band, 33 1/3, has been booked for the event. The Grand Master Organ and Carriage Memories from the Past have agreed to return. The Black Pearl Shuttle has agreed to shuttle patrons to and from the park. New activities are being planned for next year's event.

➤ **John West Park Landscaping Improvements**

On October 16, Sue Proska and other members of The Gardeners by the Sea Club planted new shrubs and flowers in the raised beds located in John West Park. On behalf of the club, Sue donated \$300.00 to the Town towards the landscape project. Staff plans to work with the group on another landscape project for the park in the spring.

➤ **Code of the Town of Ocean View**

The Ocean View Code is in need of a comprehensive review. In the near future Department Heads and staff will begin to review each Chapter of the Code and prepare a list of proposed revisions which will be presented to Town Council. Depending on the complexity of the revisions, Town Council may be asked to create a Code Revision Committee.

➤ **Public Works Building – Update**

On October 22, the bid packages were made available to all interested bidders. On October 29, a pre-bid meeting was held and ten contractors were in attendance; eight were general contractors. The sealed bids will be opened on Nov 26 and hopefully a contract can be awarded at the December 10 meeting.

➤ **Assawoman Trail Project**

On November 6, Charles McMullen met with several members of the Trail Team and walked the proposed section of the trail from Town Road to the Marina. Members of the Becker Morgan Group Architect and Engineering firm marked trees that will need to be removed before the project begins. The team looked at all encroachments within the proposed trail design. Several adjacent property owners have voluntarily removed sheds, boats, debris, and other items from the trail area. Parcels were identified where a vegetative buffer will be needed to provide privacy for homeowners. An access and staging area for the construction of the trail was identified off Osprey Lane. In early December a meeting with the Trail Team will be scheduled in Ocean View. In January or February a public meeting will be scheduled at Town Hall and property owners adjacent to the trail project will be invited to attend giving them an opportunity to ask questions and voice concerns.

➤ **Ditch Maintenance Ordinance**

A Draft Ditch Maintenance Ordinance was presented at the October Council meeting. After the meeting, Charles McMullen contacted DNREC to see if they had any information that could be included in the ordinance. Brooks Cahall, Drainage Program Manager with DNREC, stated that they are currently putting together "model" ordinance language that would address maintenance of conveyance issues as well as other floodplain and drainage standards that were recommended by the Floodplain and Drainage Advisory Committee and adopted by DNREC. In the coming months DNREC will be reaching out to all of the municipalities and the three counties to work on getting these standards voluntarily implemented. The "model" ordinance has not received any legal review to date. Therefore, we were unable to obtain a copy of the document.

➤ **Route 26 Project**

DeIDOT hosted a public hearing on October 15. DeIDOT is preparing a three-year project to widen Route 26 from the Assawoman Canal in Ocean View to St. George's Church in Clarksville. Official roadwork is expected to begin in December. Work is expected to be completed by the summer of 2016, but the timetable is entirely weather dependent. A semi-permanent construction office will open on Route 26 when construction begins. Construction will occur on multiple sections of the road simultaneously. Route 26 will only ever close completely, in two locations, for bridge replacements near Lord Baltimore Elementary School and near Millville Town Hall. From January to March 2015, drivers will need to use a detour to get around these closures. Project updates will be available from a variety of sources, from newspapers to DeIDOT's 1320-AM radio station. People can register for email updates or download a smartphone application at www.SR26.deldot.gov or they can contact DeIDOT's Public Relations Office at 1-800-652-5600 or 302-760-2080. Emails can be sent to dotpr@state.de.us. Everyone is encouraged to stay informed.

➤ **Delinquent Property Tax Letters**

Delinquent Property Tax Letters were mailed on November 1, 2013.

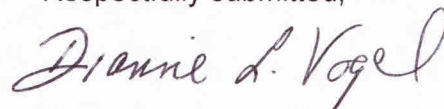
➤ **Holiday Luncheon for Town Staff**

The holiday staff luncheon will be held on Wednesday, December 18, 2013 from 12:00pm – 2:00pm at The Café on 26 in the Chef's dining room. It has been a tradition of the Town to give holiday bonuses to each employee in the amount of \$200.00, net of taxes, for all full time employees who work at least 30 hours per week and has been employed with the Town for at least six months. The Town Manager and Police Chief are not eligible to receive a bonus. Unless, there is an objection from Council, bonuses will be distributed at the staff luncheon again this year. This was provided for in the FY-14 operating budget.

Miscellaneous

- On November 8, I attended the SCAT Steering Committee meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Town Manager