

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT
FOR THE DECEMBER 10, 2013 TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

➤ **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 January 8 to continue planning for the event.

➤ **John West Park Play Equipment Improvements**

Liberty Parks and Playground has installed the new play equipment and swinging benches.

➤ **Public Works Building – Update**

On November 26, four sealed bids were opened from the following contractors: GGI Builders, Inc. T/A Gillis Gilkerson, Doubletree Structures, Kent Construction Company, Inc. and Harkins Contracting, Inc. Gillis Gilkerson returned the lowest bid in the amount of \$475,000 and were responsive to all bid requirements.

➤ **Assawoman Canal Trail Project - Update**

On December 5, I attended an Assawoman Canal Trail Team meeting in Town Hall facilitated by Bob Ehemann with DNREC to discuss Phase I of the trail which is approximately ½ mile beginning at Town Road and ending at the marina. The crushed stone trail will be designed for walking and biking, open from dawn to dusk, pets are allowed and trail users will be expected to carry out all trash. No motorized vehicles will be allowed except for emergency vehicles.

The Town Road development will include 10 parking spaces, restrooms, and an overlook with benches, an 8ft bridge and a Fee Collection Station with a ranger. The launch area for boating has been postponed until problems with existing sediment at this location can be addressed.

DNREC is looking at a site on Osprey Lane as a potential staging area during construction of the trail since it is at mid-point.

Buffers along the meandering trail will be mostly vegetative. The exact width of the trail has not been determined. However, it will be somewhere between 6 to 8 feet wide in order to provide for a 20 ft buffer along the canal.

Funding for the project has been obtained from the Delaware Land & Water Trust Fund and the FY14 Bond Bill Trail Initiative.

The project timeline is set as follows:

- Winter 2014 – Meetings with adjacent property owners
- Spring 2014 – Complete Town Road Improvements
- Fall 2014 – Phase I Trail Project completed

DNREC still must address the following items:

- Privacy/Security issues along the trail
- Dawn to dusk enforcement
- Park volunteers
- Enforcement patrols between Towns/State
- Trail signage

➤ **Phase II Pedestrian Pathway Project - Update**

Work began on November 18 and is in progress.

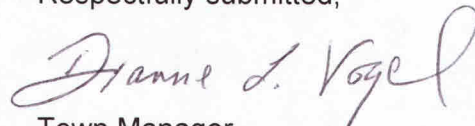
➤ **Route 26 Project - Update**

On November 27, I met with Kenneth Cimino with AECOM/DeIDOT who is the Assistant Project Engineer for the Route 26 project. Once the project is underway, he has promised to provide weekly updates to the Town about the progress of the project. An Emergency Services Planning meeting has been scheduled for Friday, December 13 at 9:00am in the Millville Fire House.

Miscellaneous

- On December 4, I attended the SCAT Dinner meeting.
- Letters for delinquent property taxes were mailed on December 4.
- The holiday luncheon for the staff will be held on December 18 at The Café on 26 from 12:00pm-2:00pm.
- On January 15, DR. Dick Nippes, with the Ocean View Historical Society, will be giving a presentation about the origins of Ocean View at Town Hall. The presentation will deal with the evolution of Sussex County, the little hamlet of Hall's Store and its transition into a cohesive, family oriented community as Ocean View.

Respectfully submitted,



Town Manager