



**September 2023**

**Volume 1, Issue 2**

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## *From the Mayor's Office*

“Thanks for resurrecting this,” emailed one long-time resident regarding the June 2023 issue of the Town’s newsletter. From the very positive comments received, this seemed to be the general feeling. “Very informative” “timely” “a wealth of information” were some of the other comments received. Thank you to all who took the time to provide feedback on our renewed publication effort. We will certainly do our best to keep the newsletter “resurrected”. All comments and suggestions are welcome.

One significant event I want to mention is that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ([USACE](#)) recently completed the beach replenishment project in Bethany Beach. Dune fencing has been installed and the Moby mats are back in place.

While the Town has no say in scheduling replenishment—it is solely in the hands of the USACE and their contractor—we are grateful to have this important work done. The dune and wide beach are effective in reducing the risk of coastal storm damage to vital infrastructure—roads, utility lines, boardwalk, businesses and homes. The work also enables the Town, County and State to benefit from a vibrant tourism industry. We are grateful to Senators Tom Carper, Chris Coons and Representative Lisa Blunt Rochester for securing the 65% federal share and to the State for its 35% share of the funding needed for the project.

While we’re on the subject of funding, the Town is also grateful to our two State representatives, Senator Gerald Hocker and Representative Ron Gray for securing \$225,000 in the recently passed State Bond Bill to go toward the cost of dredging the Loop Canal. Both Senator Hocker and Representative Gray have consistently been supportive of Bethany Beach community projects, and we appreciate all that they do for us. Please thank them if you see them.

Movies will continue through September and bandstand performances through October. Bonfires will take place on Fridays in October from 6-8 pm on the beach off Campbell Place. Marshmallows, roasting sticks, and glow bracelets will be provided while supplies last. So, there will be plenty to do in Bethany Beach into the Fall months. Check the Town’s website [www.townofbethanybeach.com](http://www.townofbethanybeach.com) under activities for concert and movie times.

## Special points of interest:

- **Bethany Beach Town Council Election**
- **Finances in Bethany Beach**
- **Bethany Beach Receives National Media Attention**
- **Flooding in Bethany beach**

## From the Mayor's Office - continued

As the summer is winding down, I want to recognize and thank the many dedicated full-time and seasonal employees who work through all kinds of weather and conditions to keep the Town beautiful and our residents, businesses and visitors safe. Our year-round workforce of some 45 full and 4 part-time workers increases to over 130 to meet the needs of the summer season. Our summer employees include seasonal police, lifeguards, code enforcement, and public works employees. Thanks to the leadership of our Town Manager, Cliff Graviet and our department heads, all work together and play a valuable part in serving and protecting everyone in Town. When you see any of the Town employees, please take the time to say thank you. And, although they're not part of the Town government, our Bethany Beach Volunteer Fire Company and EMS personnel are integral to our Town and have also worked hard to keep us safe this summer, so please thank them as well.

And please take the time to review the qualifications of the 6 candidates for 3 seats on the Town Council, and vote in the upcoming election on Saturday, September 9, from noon to 6 p.m. at Town Hall. If you can't vote in person, please be sure to vote by absentee ballot. September 9 is also the day of the annual Boardwalk Arts Festival.

We hope you enjoyed our end of summer rescheduled firework display on Sunday, September 3rd which was rescheduled from the Fourth of July.

Enjoy the rest of the summer!



## Notice of Annual Municipal Election

**PUBLIC NOTICE OF ANNUAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2023, FROM 12:00 NOON TO 6:00 P.M. EASTERN DAYLIGHT'S SAVINGS TIME IN THE TOWN MEETING ROOM, 214 GARFIELD PARKWAY, BETHANY BEACH, DELAWARE.**

Notice is hereby given to all qualified voters of the Town of Bethany Beach, Delaware that the Annual Municipal Election will be held in said Town on Saturday, September 9, 2023, from 12:00 Noon until 6:00 p.m. eastern daylight savings time, in the Town Meeting Room, 214 Garfield Parkway, Bethany Beach, Delaware.

Three (3) Town Council Members shall be elected. There are six (6) candidates. The candidates are:

Keith A. Brothers (resident)  
Russell Evans (non-resident)  
Theresa Keil (resident)  
Jerry Morris (resident)  
Patrick Sheplee (non-resident)  
Marc Tanowitz (non-resident)

At least four (4) of the seven (7) members of the Town Council must be residents of the Town, but all may be residents of the Town.

Town Council terms are for a period of two years.

At said Annual Municipal Election, every person, male or female, who has attained eighteen (18) years of age, is registered under the Town's Voter Registration ordinances, and is either: (a) a freeholder in the Town, as defined herein, for a period of 90 (ninety) days prior to the date of the election, or (b) has been a permanent, full-time resident of the Town for at least six (6) months prior to the date of the election in which he or she seeks to vote. For purposes of this Charter: (i) a "freeholder" shall be deemed to include any natural person who holds title of record to a fee simple, estate or a life estate, in and to real property located within the Town boundaries; (ii) a "resident" shall mean any person who has been a permanent, full-time resident of the Town for at least six (6) months prior to the date of the election.

Bethany Beach property owners who are listed on the Town's property tax list are not required to register to vote in Town elections.

Residents of Bethany Beach (who do not own property) must register to vote at least thirty days prior to the election. Residents may register at Town Hall or request a mailed registration form by telephone, mail or by email.

All votes shall be offered in person, or by absentee ballot. If an elector cannot appear at the regular polling place the day of the election, he/she may appear at Town Hall or contact Town Hall and request an Affidavit. Affidavits are also available on the Town's website at [www.townofbethanybeach.com](http://www.townofbethanybeach.com). The written Affidavit must be filed no later than 12:00 Noon on Friday, September 8, 2023. After approval of the Affidavit, an absentee ballot will be provided to you either in person or mailed. Absentee ballots must be received before the polls close on the day of the election. No voter shall vote for more candidates than there are offices to be filled at the election. Voting machines will be used on the day of the election.



## Bethany Beach Patrol News

The beach patrol is nearing the conclusion of another summer season in which we experienced success not only in local and regional competitions, but more importantly, in our ultimate goal of providing excellent service and safety to the residents and visitors of Bethany Beach. Past generations of BBP guards have worked hard to create a legacy of excellent lifeguarding, and our current guards strive to uphold that legacy each and every day. This summer, the patrol had the unique opportunity to celebrate the 90th anniversary of lifeguards in Bethany Beach. Over the course of the 3rd weekend in July, current guards and alumni joined together to share stories, celebrate accomplishments, and build relationships with the men and women who laid the foundation for our standard of excellence. One exciting aspect of lifeguarding in Sussex County is the opportunity to participate in local competitions held by area beach patrols. These extracurricular competitions feature a variety of running and swimming races, and are both an excellent opportunity for our guards to measure their skills against other patrols and form friendships with other guards who share the same sense of duty to their respective communities. Over the course of the summer, our guards have performed admirably in many local competitions, with two highlights being a first-place finish in the Bethany

Beach & Mango's Surf Rescue Challenge and a second-place finish at the Rehoboth Olympics. Arguably the most impressive results from this season were the first-place finishes by the men's and women's 4x90m sprint relay teams at The Mid-Atlantic Regional Championships. This competition features the best lifeguard competitors from agencies spanning from Long Island, NY to Ocean City, MD. The boys sprint team was made up of Brendan Keane, Seamus Regan, Dillon McKay, and Simon Pels while the girls team was made up of Melaney Berns, Logan Rohde, Caitlin McMahon, and Nikki Phillips. Not to be outdone, BBP guard Evan Grace also finished 2nd overall in the soft sand 2K beach run at Regionals. Both Evan and the ladies sprint

team are poised to defend their national titles this week in Virginia Beach. The zenith of the summer competition season is the USLA National Competition which was held in Virginia Beach, VA this year from August 10th to August 12th. Our patrol is sent a strong contingent of competitors including the above mentioned sprint teams as well as some strong swimmers and distance runners. The guards were excited and eager to perform well on the national level and results will be posted at a later time. As always, we appreciate the support of all who live in and vacation in the Town of Bethany Beach, and we are looking forward to finishing off another safe and successful summer season.



## How Bethany Beach Finances Compare to Other Towns

We like to say that the financial condition of Bethany Beach is very good, but what does that mean and how does it compare to other towns in the area? This article will review three financial ratios, which can help us compare town finances. Information was taken for the most recent financial statement available on each town's website.

### #1. Change in Net Position.

Net Position is calculated by adding up all assets then subtracting all liabilities and debt – it is basically a government's Net Worth. In good years Net Position increases, showing that the town is taking in more cash than it has promised to pay others. A higher change in net position suggests that the town is growing financially, although too much growth too fast can be a problem. For the most recent fiscal year the Net Position of Bethany Beach grew by 10%, compared to other area towns it was right in the middle.

Bethany Beach	Fenwick Island	Lewes	Ocean View	Rehoboth Beach	South Bethany
10%	9%	3%	5%	17%	20%

### #2. Unrestricted Net Position divided by Expenses.

Unrestricted Net Position is the portion of Net Position that is not set aside for a specific purpose. When divided by annual expenses the resulting ratio tells us about the availability of resources to meet future needs. A higher number indicates a stronger position. For this ratio Bethany Beach was highest, showing that we hold more in reserve to get us past financial hurdles in future years.

Bethany Beach	Fenwick Island	Lewes	Ocean View	Rehoboth Beach	South Bethany
1.2	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.9

### #3. Debt Burden per Capita.

This comparison takes the total liabilities of each town's general fund, then divides it by population to get the amount of town debt that belongs to each person in that town. We would all rather owe less money, so a lower number is preferred. The result of this ratio shows that Bethany Beach's property owners owe an average of \$133 per person, much less than in Rehoboth Beach or Ocean View.

Bethany Beach	Fenwick Island	Lewes	Ocean View	Rehoboth Beach	South Bethany
\$133	\$80	\$42	\$251	\$838	\$27

These important financial ratios show that the Town of Bethany Beach is experiencing strong growth, has accumulated reserves for the future, and has accomplished this without taking on a large amount of debt. The financial condition of Bethany Beach really is very good.



## **Bethany Beach Repeatedly** **Receives National Media Attention**

*Prettiest, Best, Favorite...*what words would you use to describe Bethany Beach? National publications have taken notice and continue to recognize our small town for a host of accolades. Although Bethany Beach is growing in popularity, we still make sure it maintains its small-town charm.

What was once a drive-by location identified by a “totem pole” (Chief Little Owl which is not a totem but a sculpture), is now turning heads as a thriving resort town with a host of family-friendly options.

Most recently, **Southern Living** magazine chose Bethany as one of “**The Prettiest Beach Town in Every State**” in its July 21, 2023, issue. **TravelMag** named Bethany’s Movies on the Beach and Bandstand one of the “**20 Best Summer Outdoor Movie Events in the United States**” in its July 4, 2023 issue. These are just two of the honors that Bethany has received over the years from notable publishers including:

MSN:

**“The Best Summer Vacation Spot in Every State”**

**“Best Small Towns for Retirees in America”**

**“20 Best Beaches on the East Coast”**

Travel & Leisure:

**“Favorite Family Beaches”**

**“Best Secret Beaches on Earth”**

National Geographic Traveler: **“America’s Beach Towns”**

NY Daily News: **“The Prettiest Town in Every State”**

Coastal Living: **“The Prettiest Beach Town in Every State”**

The Inquirer: **“Bethany Beach: quiet oasis”**

Trip Advisor

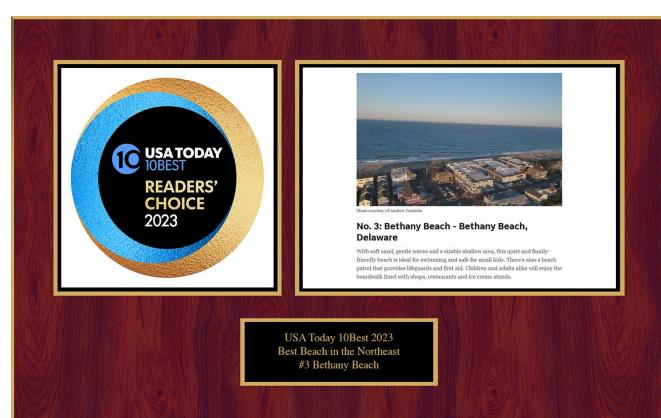
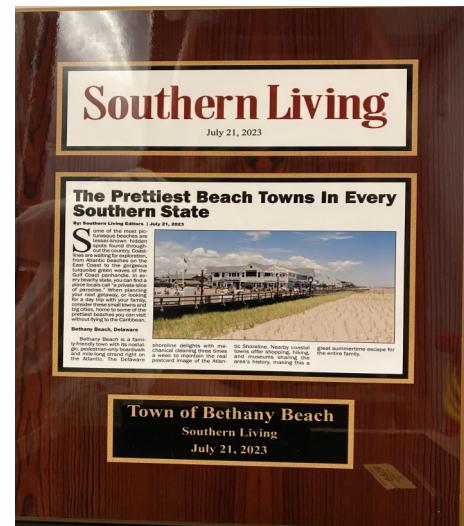
**“14 Top Rated Off the Beaten Path Vacations”**

**“10 East Coast Beaches Making a Splash”**

**“#1 Fall Shoulder Getaway”**

**“20 Most Charming Summer Beach Vacations on the East Coast”**

See them, and many more, on display as a “Wall of Fame” in the lobby of Town Hall.



# Does Bethany Beach Treat Its Drinking Water with Fluoride?

## **What is Fluoride?**

*Fluoride is a common mineral that occurs naturally and is released from rocks into the soil, water, and air. Rivers, lakes, and even the ocean naturally contain some fluoride. It is also added to drinking water for oral health.*

## **How does Fluoride work?**

*Sugar and other refined carbohydrates lead to harmful acid producing bacteria in the mouth which can lead to tooth decay. Fluoride helps by making your teeth's enamel strong and more resistant to cavities. Consuming fluoridated drinking water and following instructions for using toothpaste with fluoride ensures you have an optimal level of fluoride to prevent tooth decay per guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).*

## **Is there Fluoride in Bethany Beach's drinking water?**

*Yes. Because Delaware Code Annex title 16, § 124 mandates statewide public water fluoridation in all communities unless they weren't fluoridated prior to 1974 and voted that year against fluoridation, the Town of Bethany Beach does add fluoride to the drinking water.*

## **How much Fluoride is in the drinking water?**

*In February 2021, the State of Delaware Office of Drinking water issued a revised regulation to be consistent with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance:*

*Where fluoridation has been or will be instituted as required under 16 Del.C. §124, the target level for fluoride shall be 0.7 mg/L. An operational control range shall be maintained so that monthly average fluoride levels and 80% of daily fluoride measurements are between 0.6 mg/L and 1.0 mg/L. Fluoride levels shall not exceed 2.0 mg/L.*

## **How are Fluoride levels tested in drinking water?**

*The Town of Bethany Beach currently has four licensed water operators who run process control sampling at the water treatment plant 365 days a year where fluoride levels in the treated water are monitored using colorimetric testing equipment. Additionally, to maintain compliance with the State of Delaware Office of Drinking Water, one sample per month is taken to an outside contracted laboratory for testing, and Bethany Beach's drinking water has always met the state of Delaware's fluoridation requirements.*



# A Solution to Flooding in Bethany Beach

## Why Does Bethany Beach Frequently Flood?

Over 85% of Bethany Beach is at or below the mean high tide line. Plainly speaking, this means that 85% of Bethany Beach is at sea level. If you open the 1<sup>st</sup> link below you will see a U.S. Geological Survey map using lidar technology showing surface elevation by color. The legend shows areas above sea level in yellow, and the yellow darkens to orange as ground level rises. Blue indicates areas below sea level. The slightest shading of blue on yellow indicates ground levels below sea level and the darker the blue, the more the area is below sea level.

The map shows the Town has a **slightly** higher elevation in the south, on its Sea Colony Side, and slopes to the north, where it reaches its lowest elevation at the Loop Canal. Because the Town is relatively flat, and at sea level, underground systems of stormwater piping is not a workable solution to catch and drain rainwater. That is why 95%+ of the Town's stormwater drainage infrastructure is open ditch, swale and culvert.

And those open ditches, swales and culverts all drain into Loop Canal and the outlets for that infrastructure are at or below the water level of the Loop Canal on a normal tide!

This is a poor "system" of stormwater drainage at best. But much worse than the subpar drainage system is the fact that *when tidal waters rise in the Loop Canal, because of tidal storm or lunar event, our drainage system operates **in reverse**, and pushes water into those drainage outlets and floods Bethany Beach!* Water sitting in swales in front of homes in Bethany West, flooding Pennsylvania Avenue or sitting in the swales on Route 1, more often than not, is tidal water pushed from the Loop Canal back into the community! This is why Bethany Beach Floods. See diagram #1.

## A Solution to Flooding in Bethany Beach

There is no functional way we can prevent our drainage outlets from backfilling with tidal flood waters. But there is a way we can block all but the most significant of tidal storms from flooding the Loop Canal and then flooding Bethany Beach!

The Loop Canal is a tidal body of water, and it ebbs and flows with the tidal waters flowing in the Assawoman Canal. Tidal storm surge from the Atlantic Ocean is pushed though the Indian River Inlet into the inland Bay, down the Assawoman Canal and into the Loop Canal.

Could stopping tidal flood waters from entering the Loop Canal impact tidal flooding in Bethany Beach? After much study and evaluation, the answer is a resounding yes! And with no negative impact on Bethany Beach, or its surrounding environs!

To stop water from entering the Loop Canal the Town would have to build a very unique dam at the mouth of the Loop Canal. A dam that would allow the Loop Canal to be navigated and could be raised to prevent tidal flooding and lowered at all other times. And, the Town is working with its engineers to create just such a dam, a dam with a steel wall that will be raised and lowered by hydraulic arms or an inflatable bladder.

### **Next Steps**

Since March of 2022, the Town has worked with its engineers to create plans and a preliminary design for just such a dam. This work is about to reach a point where final design documents for a dam will be created! (To see a preliminary plan of the dam's location, see link below.)

Engineer's estimate the cost for construction of this crucial piece of Bethany Beach infrastructure at 2 million dollars. The Town has been aggressively looking for grant opportunities to help with funding the dam's construction for over a year and has one active grant application in the works, but we need your help to move this project forward.

[Dam Layout](#)

[Dam Location](#)

### **We need your help!**

### **Help us Find Funding to Construct the Dam**

We are asking you to take part in a survey to help us provide information required in the Federal grant application process. To be eligible for grant award consideration, the awarding agency needs to have an accurate picture of the extent of the flooding and the actual or estimated cost of the damage from that flooding to determine the cost effectiveness of the proposed dam. We appreciate your help in providing this important data!

**It should take less than 15 minutes of your time.** Please click on the link below.

[Loop Canal Dam Study Flooding and Drainage Issues Survey](#)



## Bethany Beach Farmers Market



### **Open for an Exciting New Season**

The Bethany Beach Farmers Market opened for its 2023 season Sunday 6/4/23 in grand style welcoming new as well as our regular ever popular group of all local growers, producers and watermen. All product in the market is locally grown, raised, produced or harvested.

Did you know the market is a separate 501c non profit organization operating under town permit and approval. We are not a town operated event, but we like to think we are a definite part of the town's fabric and culture. The town certainly helps us. We have an extensive group of wonderful and loyal volunteers as well as a board of directors who work diligently all year round to insure we bring the best vendors, quality, and product variety to our market and our Bethany Beach customers.

This year we are excited to have 13 vendors, up from past years, and adding oysters, clams, and crabs to our varied group of vendors. Shuckit Oysters and Clams, and Jackie Blue crabs are now in the market. Shuckit provides fresh oysters and clams from a short distance north of us in the Rehoboth Bay, located

just off the Indian River Inlet in constantly flushed beds that provide oysters that are incredibly clean and briny. You can't shuck oysters?! Sam will do it for you right in the market.

Jackie Blue crabs comes from just south of Snow Hill in Stockton, Maryland. Their crabs are harvested by a 5<sup>th</sup> generation crabber and are picked in their own, but small state licensed, picking facility. A rarity in the crab business where most come from large picking operations. They have it all: crabs live and cooked, crab cakes, lump crab meat, crab dip, crab soup, you name it. All family prepared.

Our last years added vendors of 302 Aquaponics and Story Hill Farm are back with 302's aquaponic grown greens, grown year round in enclosed Dover area green houses. They use Tilapia fish providing the fertilizer for leafy greens of all sorts, organically and sustainably raised with no chemicals. They also sell eggs and Tilapia. Story Hill provides locally farm raised, gluten free grain fed, pork, bacon and sausage, as well as

Henlopen sea salt, peanut butter, herbs and free-range eggs. We will be seeing pasture fed beef soon from their growing herd of Frankford, Delaware Randall cows.

All the regular favorites are in market as well including Bennett Orchards; Old World Bread; Davidson's Exotic Mushrooms; River Cottage Flowers; Lavender Fields; Herbs, Spice and Everything Nice; Honey Bee Lake Apiary; Wimbrow Farms; and Ficner's Farm. Come on by for a treat 8 to 12 am every Sunday through Labor Day. Free market parking adjacent to the market at the corner of Pennsylvania Ave. and Garfield Parkway.



## Digging Holes on the Beach Can be a Real Problem

Lately our Beach Code Enforcement Officers have been seeing an uptick in the number of unattended large dug out holes on the beach. All one needs to do is search the internet for digging sand holes and a wealth of information comes up regarding the dangers of large dug out holes on the beach. The internet is full of tragic stories about beachgoers being swallowed by large holes. We do not know why people like to dig holes in sand, but they do. So, in 2021, Bethany Beach banned digging holes on the beach.

**Bethany Beach Ordinance 223-9** prohibits a hole, trench, or depression anywhere on the beach **deeper than twelve inches and more than two feet in length or width.** This reduces the risk of injury to beach goers and hazards associated with collapsing sand and allows public safety, emergency, and beach cleaning vehicles to conduct necessary activities without risk of injury.

Unattended holes can be tripped over and if a beachgoer is not paying attention, it could easily lead to significant bodily injury. Beachgoers don't come to the beach expecting to leave with a broken ankle or leg.

Holes can collapse without warning. Wet sand can dry

out and then crumble. Dry sand weighs about 100 pounds per cubic foot and wet sand weighs about 115 pounds per cubic foot. It can cause enough pressure to inhibit breathing. That and the shifting of sand makes it difficult to rescue people who are trapped by it. "Although holes can be fun to dig and play in, they can present a public safety risk on the beach", according to Joe Donnelly, Captain of the Bethany Beach Patrol. "Aside from potential damage to public safety vehicles, deep holes also present an opportunity wherein beachgoers may unknowingly injure themselves by stepping or falling into an unattended depression. The most significant risk associated with deep holes would be the potential for a sand collapse. Sand collapses occur when a hole gets so deep that the surrounding sand becomes unstable, trapping whomever or whatever might be inside. Due to the unstable nature of sand, the rescue procedure for a sand collapse can be time consuming and complicated with the amount of sand that needs to be removed. Obviously, the longer the rescue process takes, the more potential harm the victim will be exposed to."

If you spot a person in trouble in the sand, it is best to seek help immediately. Trying to frantically dig a person out can make the sand shift and the problem worse.

Additionally, Town and State employees must drive on the beach to perform their jobs.

These holes are not always easily detected, especially during early morning or evening hours. If an employee does not see the hole, it can cause significant damage to a vehicle or piece of equipment.

It's not just human visitors that can be at risk. Sand trenches and holes pose a big problem for juvenile shorebirds and sea turtles, who may find themselves in a hole without any way of getting out.

When a beach patrol member or a beach code officer asks you to fill a hole, please be respectful and comply. It could prevent an injury.

**When digging, please remember to fill in what you have created and don't leave holes unattended ever!**

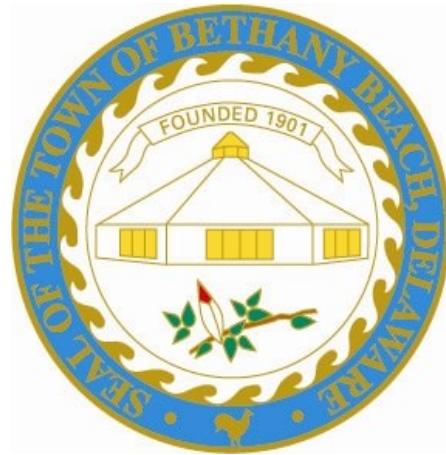
**Keep everyone safe. Thank You!**



# Town of Bethany Beach

**214 Garfield Parkway  
P.O. Box 109  
Bethany Beach, DE 19930**

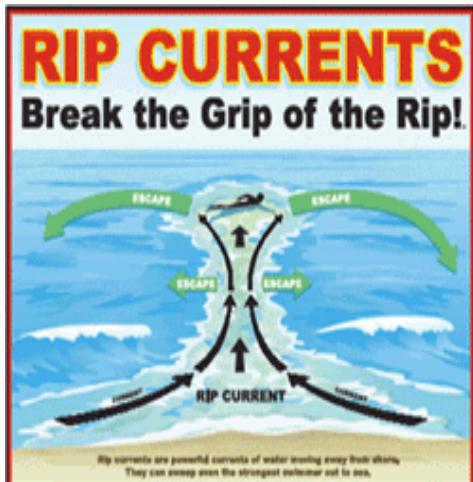
**Phone: 302-539-8011  
Fax: 302-539-8149  
Email: [newsletter@townofbethanybeach.com](mailto:newsletter@townofbethanybeach.com)  
Please send us your comments, questions or  
concerns**



**We are on the web.**

**[www.townofbethanybeach.com](http://www.townofbethanybeach.com)**

**Town of Bethany Beach  
The Quiet Resort**



## **IF CAUGHT IN A RIP CURRENT**

- ◆ Don't fight the current
- ◆ Swim out of the current, then to shore
- ◆ If you can't escape, float or tread water
- ◆ If you need help, call or wave for assistance

## **SAFETY**

- ◆ Know how to swim
- ◆ Never swim alone
- ◆ If in doubt, don't go out

More information about rip currents can be found at the following web sites:  
[www.ricurrents.noaa.gov](http://www.ricurrents.noaa.gov)  
[www.usa.org](http://www.usa.org)



## **Beach Rules**

- No tents, canopies, tarps, or cabanas. Standard upright umbrellas and baby tents (no larger than three (3') feet high by four (4') feet wide by five (5') feet long and without grounding wires or ropes that extend beyond the perimeter of the device) are allowed
- No smoking or vaping unless in a designated smoking area
- No ball playing, tossing objects, kites, or fishing during lifeguard hours
- No alcoholic beverages or glass containers
- No boats or vehicles on beach
- No dogs May 15 through September 30
- No fires
- No littering
- Beach closed to public from 1:00 am to 5:00 am daily
- No sleeping on beach from 10:00 pm to 8:00 am
- No digging large holes in sand