

Rehoboth Beach Homeowners' Association

Incorporated 1971

May 2009

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This newsletter is published by the RBHA four times a year as an informational and educational tool for its members. Content is determined by the Communication Committee with guidance from the Board. Contributors include RBHA staff and other members of the community.

We welcome your comments and suggestions.

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RBHA
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President's Message

Welcome to SPRING. We are looking forward to sunshine, warmth, and shaking off the cob webs and the darkness of winter. Let's hope that we can all climb out of the darkness brought on by the economy of the last year and have a great summer season in Rehoboth Beach.

As you have probably read in our RBHA News email bulletins, the Rehoboth Homeowners' Association has decided to become members of many of the organizations in town. Our purpose is to promote their activities through our membership. We are members of SOLA3 and Main Street and have recently joined the Chamber of Commerce and Camp Rehoboth. We will periodically bring you information about the activities of these various organizations in our continued effort to keep our membership informed of the many activities inside and outside of city government.

Speaking of keeping you informed, we have updated our email message delivery format and I think you will agree, it is a huge improvement over our last effort. Many thanks to Hoyte Decker for taking on that project AND delivering most of the content of those messages. Hoyte and I work together to determine the content of the emails but we are always willing to have some input and assistance. If you have any suggestions or wish to contribute some news or information you think is relevant, please send the submissions to us.

Continuing on that theme, we have an improved website that is now up and running. Many, many thanks RBHA Member Andrew Coupe for the work he did on the site. Andrew donated his time for this project and we could not have done it without him. It will be updated regularly with our goal of keeping the residents of Rehoboth informed about all things Rehoboth. WE are always looking for contributors for the newsletter and now will also be looking for members to let us know of upcoming events so we can post them on the web.

Twenty-two percent of our members do not live in town full time and our main goal is to keep everyone as informed as possible on as many activities as we can. We continue to find

ways to achieve this goal and I hope you agree that the new format of the emails and the enhanced newsletter are meeting those goals. This has become a major undertaking and I want to pass on my appreciation to the many board members and volunteers who attend city meetings and write articles on them, write articles on activities going on in town, participate in the many activities like Dune Grass planting, and generally contribute in a variety of ways to help improve what we deliver to the members.

In an effort to boost our membership with the goal of increasing awareness of activities in Rehoboth, we are undertaking a project to reach out to over 2000 people that we know own property in Rehoboth. Our goal is to continue to get as much information as possible to the residents of Rehoboth. As always, I would be remiss if I did not mention again the NEED for more volunteers. This effort does not happen without a core of very dedicated and hard working members but we need more of you to step forward. We are doing this because we see many issues facing this city over the coming years and we think every homeowner should be aware of them. Some of the major issues are our Wastewater discharge, the City CDP (Comprehensive Development Plan), the Boardwalk renovations, The concept of a Site Plan Review by the city, the ongoing discussion of the need for a better Police Station and City Hall, parking issues, and many, many more.

"How can I help" you ask? Write an article for the newsletter, interview an interesting friend for our spotlight section, join one of our committees, send us interesting information for the emails, participate in our community activities, attend a Commissioners meeting. This does not have to be a huge undertaking; an hour or two of your time can help considerably. MOST OF ALL, become active in some way in the community that you have a vested interest in.

Thank you.

Sincerely,


Linda Kauffman, RBHA President

Summary of RBHA Meetings

April 18, 2009 RBHA GENERAL MEETING

The RBHA hosted the first of six public meetings that the Rehoboth Beach Planning Commission is using to inform citizens about the next iteration of the State required document for future development in the City. Preston Littleton, Commission Chair addressed 20 attendees to the RBHA Spring General Meeting. Dr. Littleton identified many significant updates to the CDP, which was last approved by the State in 2004.

The CDP as drafted provides a vision for the City as it could exist in 15-20 years and includes four primary elements: water resources, town character & community services, neighborhoods, and business. "Achieving the vision is the heart of the CDP and is the basis for actions recommended in the plan." Details of the draft CDP can be accessed at: <http://www.cityofrehoboth.com/cdp2008.html>

There were many positive points made by Dr. Littleton in his one-hour plus talk, including a power-point presentation. He pointed to the need to resolve the rezoning of the Rehoboth Elementary School property. He underscored the importance of community services, citing the need for more effective enforcement of rental property tax collection. He recognized the critical efforts of SOLA3 and the fact that the draft CDP directly incorporates SOLA3's plans.

However, the session was tempered by the concerns expressed by several audience members. Greg Oliver—an RBHA member, full-time resident, and business owner—expressed serious concern about a possible proposal to eliminate or significantly restrict vehicular traffic on Baltimore Avenue. Violet Chilcoat, a full-time resident of Queen Street wondered why there weren't priorities and time frames. She went on to indicate she had a concern about a possible underlying issue that she described as a "forced look," referring to a cottage-y uniformity of homes. Ms. Chilcoat questioned if that was the focus "or was it more tangible influences on our quality of life? What is really the most important thing we'll address here?"

April 18, 2009 RBHA BOARD MEETING

VP Hoyte Decker reported on the updates to the email system and the website. Discussion followed about preparations for the next RBHA Newsletter. Next, the Board deliberated a proposal to do a mass mailing to develop more members. There is a potential audience of over 2,900 property owners within the City limits. The Board authorized expenditure up to \$2,500 for the project.

March 21, 2009 RBHA BOARD MEETING

Although the Saturday, March 21, 2009 Board meeting was

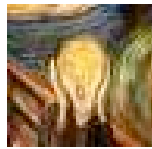
shortened so that members could participate in the annual dune grass planting, a number of significant actions were taken. Greg Gause reported the latest information concerning a tree and memorial plaque for former President Jay Smith. In an effort to become more engaged in the community the Board voted to join the Chamber of Commerce and Camp Rehoboth. There was also discussion of joining the Rehoboth Beach Historical Society and the VIA. It is not clear whether or not the RBHA is eligible to join the 50 year-old women's organization. The Board also voted to realign budgeted funds for Newsletter and website administration that will permit the Homeowners to do a mass membership promotional mailing.

February 21, 2009 RBHA BOARD MEETING

Mayor Sam Cooper was the featured speaker at the RBHA February Board meeting. Mr. Cooper fielded questions from 15 interested attendees, including County Councilwoman Joan Deaver [who indicated she was attending in an effort to improve County relations with communities], and City Commissioners Lorraine Zellers and Stan Mills. The Mayor spent well over an hour addressing the City's wastewater project.

Then the Mayor responded to questions and the following are highlights. OCEAN OUTFLOW. Mayor Cooper said a price in the range of \$35-36 Million could be expected. It could feature new technological advances, such as direct drilling—placing the pipe underground all the way to the dispersal point. LAND APPLICATION. The Mayor mentioned the ongoing County/City study, but also noted that there could be some benefit to reducing nutrient levels at the County's Wolfe Neck facility by pumping the City's treated wastewater and blending it with untreated matter that the County generates. COSTS. The Mayor expressed reservations about what he termed the "cost model," the steps necessary to allocate expenses between the County and the City. He also noted that the City has added bargaining power as a result of the water services it provides to other communities, i.e., Dewey Beach, North Shores, and Henlopen Acres. In the end he said that residential consumers might expect to pay 109% more for their wastewater costs (based on his overall project cost estimate of \$36 million). Ms. Kauffman questioned his estimate, referring to the Clean Water Advisory Committee—the state funding source—which projected an increase of over 300%. In response to why there was such a large difference, Mayor Cooper suggested there were a number of false assumptions. He cited one example; he said the water department operating revenue is about \$1.7 million; expenses are about \$1,242,000 and that money could be used to reduce the overall cost to the citizens. Ms. Kauffman pointed out that the excess goes into the general fund, which would create a deficit there, if the monies were reallocated to the water department. Unfortunately, the discussion drifted and the Mayor never finished his example.

ELECTION NIGHTMARES ?



Is there a crippling election issue waiting to happen? It appears that if the electoral stars align one or more of the two annual Commissioner positions could be left unfilled, the issue could become the subject of an administration-crippling lawsuit that could potentially bring the City's legislative process to a standstill.

The current qualifications for the position of Commissioner are defined and a limit of three non-resident Commissioners is established (see City Charter, Section 3). However, in practice it is unclear which Commissioners are residents and which are non-residents, because the provision contains no language to require identification or proof of the bona fide status of each Commissioner as a resident or non-resident. The provision also fails to stipulate how to address changes in a Commissioner's residency status during their term.

Every year two Commissioner seats are contested. Some years there are non-resident seats available, some years there are none. Presently there are three non-resident Commissioners: Kathy McGuinness, Dennis Barbour, and Lorraine Zellers. Commissioner McGuinness' term ends this year (as does resident Commissioner Paul Kuhns). It is important to note that no one has declared for the seats, as of this writing.

A reading of the provision will disclose how a situation could arise when multiple candidates—both resident and non-resident—are seeking office for the two available seats. As is the case this year, only one seat is available to a non-resident. Presently, it is unclear who would win a seat where more than one non-resident candidate outpolled the resident candidate(s). The current Charter does not address the subject. Simply stated, if the two top vote getters are nonresidents, one would be declared the winner of the "nonresident" seat. The other nonresident would not gain a seat even if the nonresident candidate received more votes than the resident candidate. Yes? No? Maybe? It's not clear!

The RBHA has brought this issue to the attention of the Boards of Commissioners periodically since 2003. Here we are again. We think it is time to ask the Commissioners to resolve this issue with legislation to amend the Charter, or, at least, a formal opinion issued by the City Solicitor and adopted as a Resolution that clarifies these issues and is binding on future candidates. To avoid the appearance of backroom politics, this needs to happen before the upcoming election and preferably before candidates file their petitions to run. What do you think? Isn't it about time to resolve this dilemma?

City News Briefs

Boardwalk Reconstruction Phase One is complete less some amenities, such as light poles, but has been reopened since Easter weekend. Federal Stimulus funds are earmarked for Phase Two with reconstruction to commence after summer.

To promote safety and easier mobility, new American Disability Act (ADA) compliant sidewalk corners with painted crosswalks are nearing completion along First Street at Maryland, Baltimore, Wilmington, Delaware, Brooklyn and Philadelphia Avenues.

The Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) recently excavated stones out of the surf zone but the program proved fruitless as the stones refilled the evacuated areas within a week.

Residential recycling continues into its second year. This service is free to residential users. Recycling saves space at the landfill, saves on dumping fees and is environmentally friendly. Sign up through the City Manager's office at 227-4641 or information@cityofreboth.com

Take a sip from a historic monument. The Woman's Christian Temperance Union Fountain centered at the end of Rehoboth Avenue at the Boardwalk is newly listed on the National Register of Historic Places thanks to assistance from resident Evelyn Dick Thoroughgood. It has been said that the wood lid behind the monument covers a recess where a block of ice was put in the "old" days to cool the drinking water.

The City's Internet Technology (IT) and Building & Licensing (B&L) Departments are now settled into their new offices. To use their services visit them at 306 Rehoboth Avenue, the site of the old Wilmington Trust Bank building. Handicap parking is available in the rear; others visitors park on Rehoboth Avenue. B&L's direct phone is 227-4504.

The Farmer's Market has resumed and is open on Tuesdays, rain or shine, in Grove Park.. Hours are noon to 4 p.m.

June 12 is the final day you can register or re-register* to vote in the 2009 Municipal Election. (If you miss two consecutive elections you must re-register even if you were registered in the past.) Even if you are registered to vote in another jurisdiction, you may be eligible to also vote in Rehoboth's elections. Call City Hall at 302-227-6181 for more information.

Homeowner responsibilities include maintenance of sidewalks and trimming of limbs and bushes in front of their homes, and also the posting of an address number so that emergency responders and others can find the house.

Trees are a valuable asset in the City and are protected under a tree ordinance which mandates rules on trimming, removal and the need, at times, to obtain a specialized tree permit. For more information, the City arborist can be reached through the Building & Licensing Department at 227-4504.

RBHA Environmental Reports

A Stroll with the City Manager — Fritz Hessemer

Greg Ferrese, City Manager, went for a walk recently. He went on a tour of the City to examine the state of trees on public property and to consider what varieties might be appropriate for replacement of dead trees and to address the problem of memorials where replacement trees are needed. I joined him on the walk with Rick Swanson of Sposato Landscaping (which does a lot of grounds keeping work for the City), Walter Onizuk, City Arborist, and fellow resident Greg Gause. We toured the length of Rehoboth Avenue from the railroad station to the Bandstand with special emphasis on the central boulevard areas. We also examined the ocean block of Brooklyn Avenue where approximately eight Japanese Black Pines will be planted for hardiness against the wind and salt atmosphere. We also studied the ocean block of Olive Avenue for additional plantings of Japanese Black Pines. I showed the group the standing dead oak at the end of Third Avenue near the yellow fire plug just inside the forest of Central Park. We ended our tour at the west end park area of Lake Gerar along Olive Avenue. Mr. Swanson made a record of the trees we surveyed; Mr. Onizuk took photos for the record. Mr. Ferrese told the group that the planting and removal of trees surveyed that day will be paid from the town's normal budget, not the mitigation fund.

— Fritz

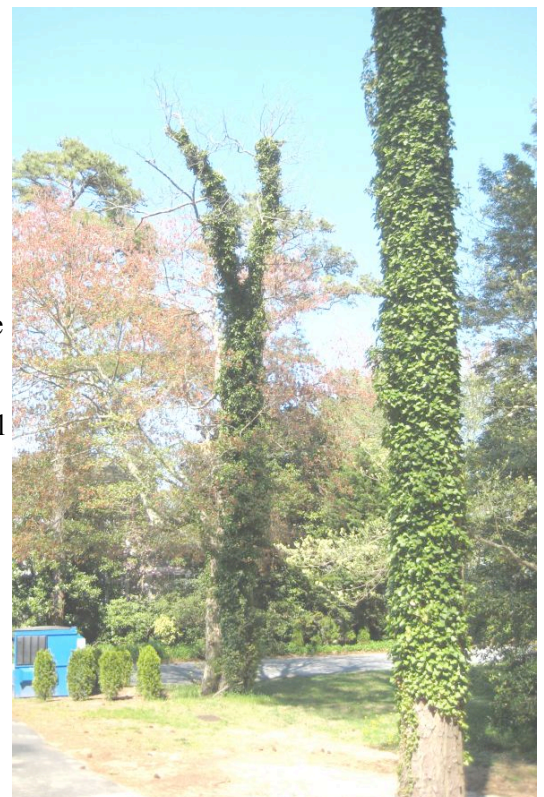
The “Pesky Plant” — Greg Gause

Enough of trees, let's discuss *Hedera helix* in the ginseng family, commonly called English ivy. In the juvenile state it is climbing, with three to five lobed, dark green, leathery leaves. This young phase is often characterized by stems bearing aerial rootlets. The adult form is more shrubby, has entire leaves, lacks aerial roots and bears small greenish flowers. This pesky plant is everywhere in Rehoboth. If left alone it will take over large areas including entire mature trees. It has been designated an "alien invasive" by the Department of Agriculture, which gives us the green light to eliminate it where it is inappropriate and otherwise to curtail it. For a good example of what can happen when it is unintended for many years look at the twin-trunked oak on the northwest side of Lake Gerar behind the Episcopal Retreat House (the old duPont summer house). See photos.



The younger plants can be sprayed with Round-Up, etc. when biological activity resumes in the Spring. Another effective antidote is to pull it by hand, but beware of poison ivy, oak or sumac that may be hidden in the patch. Mature ivy on trees must be cut so as to clear away a bare spot all the way around the trunk (one foot or more). The exposed roots then should be painted with full strength Round-Up, etc., not once, but several times. It is generally thought that total ivy infestation will eventually kill even a mature tree, part of the reason being that the ivy will absorb increasing amounts of the nutrients which otherwise would feed the tree.

Happy hunting !!



— Greg

RBHA BOARD MEMBER PROFILE

AN INTERVIEW WITH LINDA KAUFFMAN

— Judy Mellen

Sometimes unplanned events come your way and change your life. That is pretty much what happened to Linda Kauffman, president of the Rehoboth Beach Homeowners' Association.

Linda had been happily fulfilling her long-time goal of teaching social studies and coaching field hockey when, in 1985, she had the opportunity to help develop the new Allentown Parking Authority. She jumped at the chance to try her wings in this new venture and it was a good fit! Coming in on the ground floor of a burgeoning industry, she became Executive Director, rising in national prominence to Chair of the board of the International Parking Institute after serving on the board for 12 years.

A native of Harrisburg, PA, she lived in many communities in the area, attending Kutztown University where she earned a B.S. in education in 1978. Teaching seemed like the natural occupation for a member of a tight knit family with a Pennsylvania Dutch ancestry. And so it was: three years teaching in Junior High School and two years in Senior High School when the unplanned opportunity came her way.

What was planned, however, was eventual retirement in Rehoboth Beach. Linda and her life partner of now 26 years, Dee Speck, bought a house in Rehoboth Beach in the mid-1990s. When they retired in 2006, they became full time residents and, according to Linda, it is their "last move."

Even as a non-resident homeowner for many years, Linda looked forward to the information about Rehoboth from the Homeowners' Newsletter. Always interested and involved in the workings of democracy and its critical component of citizen education, she saw the RBHA as a vital link between the City and its residents, whether full or part-time.

The skills and knowledge developed in the parking industry were brought with

her to Rehoboth Beach, as is often the case with high level professionals. The skills to study an issue, to examine all sides of a controversy and to come to a satisfactory resolution are applicable to many roles in life. Useful also is the skill in dealing with people and conflict resolution. These elements have been put to good use by Linda in her almost three years as president of the organization.

Linda sees the role of the RBHA as exploring vital issues in depth, such as the recent debate on wastewater. In addition, the interface of Rehoboth with Sussex County and the proposed Community Development Plan (CDP) are just a few of the issues that affect us all.



Now as RBHA president, her goal is to get information out, especially to those who are not in Rehoboth Beach full time. As she points out, non-residents are a big portion of the Homeowners' membership. It is important for them to understand what is going on in town, what issues are being discussed and what the controversial topics are and, without politicizing, what differences of opinion exist. Becoming involved and informed, after all, is how members make their voices heard on issues that affect them.

For the future, Linda is spearheading a drive for increased membership. Towards that end the RBHA will expand its outreach to not only get new members but to reach and inform more homeowners in the city so they can be better citizens.

— Judy Mellen

NEW LOOK FOR RBHA COMMUNICATIONS

As noted in the President's Message, the Rehoboth Beach Homeowners' Association is turning an electronic page. With this issue of the RBHA Newsletter you will now be able to access an online copy at our website, rbhomeowners.com. The electronic editions are distributed in pdf format, which among other advantages allows you to see pictures in full color! You'll save a tree and save RBHA 42 cents! Send your email address to info@rbhomeowners.com and we'll add you to our list.

By providing your email address you will also receive periodic "RBHA News" emails with informative reports about RBHA meetings, City meetings and other community happenings sure to be of interest to you. We've also upgraded this email system. RBHA is using Constant Contact, an email system provider, to produce more graphic and appealing email messages. For those of you already subscribed, you can say goodbye to those pesky ??Question Mark?? punctuation symbols!

Summary of RBHA Events

DUNE GRASS PLANTING & BEACH CLEANUP

Eight to ten RBHA members were part of a group of more than 40 interested persons who came to the beach on a blustery March 21st morning to plant dune grass. Thousands of dune grass cuttings were placed in two areas, at Olive Street and just north of the breakwater at the Henlopen Hotel. Then, six hardy members braved the March winds to sweep the beach of debris including, a wood pallet, a dead sea gull, and other assorted refuse as part of its Adopt-a-Beach responsibilities. Both programs are sponsored by DNREC.

View some pictures on

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/36097062@N08/sets/72157615633815683/>

City Meeting News

Summary highlights from meetings of the Board of Commissioners, Board of Adjustment and Planning Commission

Notes recorded are by RBHA volunteers who attended the meetings.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HIGHLIGHTS

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

April 17, 2009 Regular Meeting

This was the first Friday night Board of Commissioner regular meeting. Under Old Business Commissioners heard further reports regarding the wastewater project. Another meeting between the County and the City will be held on April 30 to consider a final version of the engineering report. This report will analyze feasibility and costs for the City to send treated effluent or raw sewage to a County facility for disposal by land application. The Commissioners discussed various alternatives to extend the time applicable to commencing building construction in cases involving a Board of Adjustment variance. The Commissioners decided to extend the current applicable period from three months to six months and allowed for the Board of Adjustment to grant one extension of this time period for up to three months based on good cause.

Under New Business the Commissioners accepted the recommendation of the Audit Committee to approve the audit for the City's fiscal year ended March 31, 2008.

Commissioner Stan Mills provided an update in his Boardwalk Committee report. He noted that Phase 1 of the Boardwalk renovation will be completed by the end of April except for minor items such as foot shower platforms. Installation of the new light poles will occur sometime in early June. Federal stimulus money has been earmarked for the rest of the Boardwalk, which, if all goes to plan, will be completed by Memorial Day, 2010. Bids for construction will be opened in late June, 2009. Commissioner Mills indicated that construction would begin south of Rehoboth Avenue after Labor Day and north of Rehoboth Avenue after the end of Sea Witch Festival, the last week in October.

City Manager Greg Ferrese reported that renovations of the Main Street building will start on Monday, April 20 at 28 Lake Avenue. Main Street has moved into temporary quarters in the old Building and Licensing trailer. Work is expected to be completed by July 20. The City has put in a request for stimulus monies for the purchase and installation of solar panels for 306 Rehoboth Avenue. The City was named as a Tree City, USA for the 19th consecutive year. All departments are gearing up on hiring personnel in preparation for the summer tourist season.

Restaurant owner Jay Caputo offered a Citizen Comment questioning the denial of a request to place a tent in the drive way of his restaurant, The Porcini House on First Street, to

host a pig roast. The City Solicitor offered that City ordinance does not allow for tents in this situation and there is no process for the City Manger to grant exceptions. Also, the code does not allow for an expansion of the restaurant area into the driveway except by applying for an expansion through amending a permit of compliance.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

March 28, 2009 Special Meetings

The City of Rehoboth Beach held two Special Meetings on Saturday, March, 28, 2009. The first dealt with the Annual Budget. The second was a Public Hearing on the matter of rezoning an area at Canal, Sixth, Grove Streets and Rehoboth Avenue.

The Board of Commissioners adopted the FY 2010 Budget. The Budget is balanced at just over \$14, million.

As to the rezoning, there was more than three hours of testimony by Planning Commission officials, representatives of the Oak Grove Motor Lodge—the party with principal interest in the proposed action, the Canalside Inn owners—who have opposed the rezoning since it was proposed, seven written comments, and a dozen testimonials by a variety of residents—both within and outside the affected neighborhood. Like lightning (spelling?) Commissioner Dennis Barbour made a motion to rezone the subject area when the Public Hearing was completed. In spite of a request by Commissioner Stan Mills for more time to consider the information and testimony offered that morning and in spite of a motion by Commissioner Kathy McGuinness for a compromise that would have carved out an exception for the owners of the Canalside Inn, which failed for lack of a second, the matter was approved by a vote of 4-3. The justification of the majority of Mayor Cooper and Commissioners Barbour, Colluzzi and Zellers seemed to be that the opportunity to consider mixed use was lost with the development of the Park Place property [at Canal Street and State Road].

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

March 16, 2009 Regular Meeting

A Permit of Compliance was granted to the owners of new restaurant, Rigby's Bar and Grill, at the previous location of Partners Restaurant. After a lengthy Public Hearing the Commissioners voted to refer the issue of discontinuous sidewalks to the Street and Light Committee for further clarification be

Continued next page.

Summary highlights from City meetings, continued.

fore considering the matter further. "Discontinuous sidewalks" refers to the gaps in blocks where more than 50% of properties have existing sidewalks, which current City Code requires to be completed. (Requires?? Doesn't charter give us the discretion to impose this rather than mandate it?) Some in the audience, including some property owners identified to fill in the missing gaps, supported the concept of filling in the missing sections. However, the issue involves a number of complex questions. Some speakers participating in the hearing challenged the City's enforcing sidewalk construction in the 21 cases in contention here. Some argued that individual and unique conditions affected the ability to complete construction; some also asserted that the City should be responsible for the expense, especially during these difficult economic times. The Street & Light Committee will report back to the Commissioners in two to three months.

Information about the cost of the Ocean Outfall option of wastewater disposal was given. The approximate figure was thirty-four million dollars, resulting in a 110% increase for taxpayers. Information on a separate cost study underway for a City/County partnership is not as yet available. (Was the S&W report on ocean outfall available at this meeting? If so mention it is on city web site)

The current Boardwalk construction is proceeding on schedule. Lighting has been chosen which is similar in design to that used in the Streetscape and a low bid contract was awarded to Eastern Shore Services.

Adoption of the City Budget was tabled until the Commissioners meet at a Special Meeting at 9:00 am on March 28. The action was taken because Commissioners (and the public) did not have adequate time for perusal and input on several related ordinances, which were only delivered to the Board earlier that afternoon. A copy of the five proposed ordinances will be put on the city website.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING February 17, 2009 Regular Meeting

City Commissioners addressed several significant items, including the wastewater project, Boardwalk construction, and an alternative recycling program. The Commissioners also decided to change its meeting schedule; the Commission will meet on the first and third Fridays of the month starting in April. Workshop meetings will be held the first Fridays at 9:00 a.m.; Regular meetings will be held the third Fridays at 7:00 p.m.

Concerning wastewater, the Mayor reported that an engineering study with the County has begun. A first meeting with County officials and study engineers was held on February 10th and a second meeting is scheduled for March 6th. The study will take 60-90 days to complete and will evaluate the feasibility of transferring treated or raw sewage to a County land application facility. The results—it is hoped—will produce

financial data that will enable the City to compare costs with other options, primarily ocean outflow.

Commissioner Mills reported on the status of the next phase of the Boardwalk project. The Boardwalk project may be the recipient of as much as \$7.4 million in Federal stimulus funds. In order to qualify the City must be "shovel ready" in a very short period of time. Surveying was recently completed, the permit process with DNREC has commenced, and engineering drawings are being developed. The Board decided to replace the concrete section at the end of Rehoboth Avenue with the pine wood boards being used on the balance of the Boardwalk. The vote was 6-1 with the Mayor dissenting. Because of Federal requirements, work will likely begin during the summer season. Construction would commence toward the south end of the Boardwalk; beach access would be assured in a manner similar to the practice used during the most recent beach replenishment project.

City Manager Greg Ferrese announced the recycling collection bid and the Board of Commissioners approved it. As noted below the \$1/pick-up fee will be absorbed by the City for the coming year.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING February 2, 2009 Workshop Meeting

The Mayor reported that grant money has been obtained to fund a study by the City and County in a wastewater partnership. The study would focus on spray irrigation options with the City and County sharing responsibility. There are several spray irrigation variations as well as an ocean outflow option. A preliminary meeting with engineers will take place soon. The Board considered a proposed resolution to hold a public hearing for the rezoning a section of lots in the area of Canal, Sixth, Grove Streets and Rehoboth Avenue from C-1 to R-2; they will consider the resolution at the February regular meeting. Mr. Rick Kirchoff, a principal of the Canalside Inn, which is located in the neighborhood, expressed his concern that a change in the zoning will place him at great financial risk; effectively cutting off all business options, he could be left with a property which would have no commercial or residential value.

Commissioner Mills offered proposed amendments to two ordinances affecting restaurant permit requirements. The Board will further review the suggestions at a future Workshop. Changes to Board meeting times, the possibility of installing solar panels on the new City building at 306 Rehoboth, and a new zoning map were New Business items that were discussed without further action taken.

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

March 23, 2009 Meeting

The Board of Adjustments met on Monday, March 23rd.

Continued next page.

Summary highlights from City meetings, continued.

There were two items on the agenda. The request by the Green Turtle for a variance was back on the agenda due to the fact that the time constraint imposed by the original variance approval had expired. This item was tabled because the attorney for the Board of Adjustment was not able to attend. The citizens that were present representing the Green Turtle did not have a problem with it being pushed into the next month.

The second item was for a variance for an exterior landing and stairway to be constructed in a setback area. This is for the property located at 42 1/2 Baltimore Avenue. The Alcoholic beverage Commission had ruled that the resident living in the second floor apartment above The Seafood Shack Restaurant could no longer use the entrance through the restaurant. There was discussion on the matter as it relates to a request to deny it from the owner of the property that is next door based on a previously issued court order. The Board determined that if there is a legal issue and court order in place denying this stairway, it would have no impact on the decision that the Board of Adjustments would render. That issue is a civil issue and one that should be settled or litigated separately. Granting this does not go against the court order. After the discussion, it was agreed to grant the variance to Patricia Whittier, the owner of the property.

PLANNING COMMISSION HIGHLIGHTS

April 13, 2009

The Board of Commissioners and the Planning Commission held a joint meeting to discuss progress on an update to the existing CDP. The Planning Commission presented an overview of the changes to the 2004 Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP). There is a state mandated review of the CDP every 5 years. The CDP has grown from about 40 pages to 87 pages as the mayor pointed out and he also questioned other statistics. The mayor was unsettled with the use of "shalls" and "wills" which indicate a mandatory requirement. Commissioner Mills wondered who was to pay for everything. The Planning Commission stated this was a draft and there are more meetings to come with the public; the Commissioners are not bound by everything in the CDP. The 2004 CDP, the draft 2009 CDP and workshop schedules can be found on the city web site at www.cityofrehoboth.com. Printed copies are available through Building and Licensing at 302-227-4504.

April 10, 2009 Meeting

The City's Planning Commission addressed an application to partition a property at 105 Park Avenue. The case is somewhat unique, because of the unusual property lines with frontage on two streets: Park and Columbia Avenues. Although the partitioning would result in two standard lots (each more than the 5,000 sq ft minimum), Commissioners struggled with the issue of less than the required front footages on the property. The surveyor for the applicants testified, but the matter was not further clarified. The Commission decided to send the case to a Public Hearing.

March 11, 2009 Meeting

Five members of the Planning Commission debated the topic of Width of Streets for short dead end streets within a development. Jan Konesey and Nancy Meadow were absent. The discussion surrounded how wide the street should be, how much access any emergency vehicle needs to get into the area, if there should be a requirement for sidewalks, whether parking should be allowed OR required, and general code compliance issues. The group did agree on the typical width of a cartway of 8' and a parking lane of 7' and this was used throughout the discussions.

There were several attempts to compromise and pass a measure. Five separate motions were made with various suggestions of width, parking, no parking, etc. Some suggestions were 18' wide paved area with no parking, 18' paved with parking on one side, 14' paved with 7' of parking that is not necessarily paved but some sort of paver, and 21' of paved with parking on one side.

Consensus and a vote was taken with the following: Width equals 16' paved and 7' for parking that could or might not be paved, and 14' of right-of-way with 7' on each side. This 7' is for a 5' sidewalk (required for ADA purposes) and a 2' strip between sidewalk and roadway. The total Right-of-Way for this is 37'. Four voted in favor of it and Harvey Shulman abstained because he did not agree but did not want to vote against it.

Other business wrapped up quickly with a discussion on the various venues in which the Planning Commission will present the Comprehensive Development Plan. They are required to have two public hearings but have a large list of groups to offer presentations. RBHA is one of them and appears to be the first on the list. Pal Littleton, Planning Commission Chair, will make a presentation of the CDP at our RBHA General Membership meeting on April 18th and we urge ALL members to attend. The plan has far reaching implications for many things that affect our way of life in Rehoboth.

The Planning Commission also agreed to look at changing their meeting dates to Friday to be consistent with the City Commissioners meetings although, if moved, they plan to schedule the meeting earlier at 5:00 PM or 6:00 PM. They all agreed that it would give more non-residents the opportunity to attend but decided to wait to finalize a time until after the CDP meetings and hearings are complete.

There was also discussion around having full Planning Commission attendance at the Commissioners workshop meeting on Friday April 3rd at 9:00 AM to discuss the Site Plan Review Draft Ordinance and at the joint meeting with the Commissioners to be held at on Monday April 13th at 3:30 PM to discuss the CDP.

For more city meeting summaries, including those of city committees, go to our RBHA web site: rhomeowners.com

COMMUNITY CALENDAR 2009



May

- 22 RB Film Society monthly film screening "I've Loved You So Long" 7PM at Movies at Midway—upstairs screening room. 645-9095 RBFS www.rehobothfilm.com
- 23 CDP Public Information Session by the Planning Commission. 10AM at RB Fire Station Hall Reh. Ave.
- 23 Under the Sea: Bingo-a-go-go RB Convention Ctr. Doors open 6PM. bingo.aids.org
- 25 Board of Adjustment, 7 PM City Hall.
- 26 Farmer's Market, Noon—4 PM Grove Park
- 28 Breakfast Buffet 8-11AM. \$7 in advance; \$8/door. Cape Henlopen Senior Ctr. 227-2055
- 28 RB Historical Society lecture: Vietnam Mailbag by Nancy Lynch. 7PM at the Museum. 227-7310
- 28 Poetry At The Beach — a poetry reading series now in its 4th year. 7-8PM RB Public Library 227-8044
- 30 Dedication/Grand Opening of new wing — CAMP Rehoboth Community Center, 37 Baltimore Avenue. 5-7PM. All welcome.
- 14 "BEST OF THE BEACH" Beebe Art Auction. The Beebe Medical Foundation and the Rehoboth Art League's 19th Annual Art Auction, Dinner, & Dance. Fine art, fine food, live and silent auctions to benefit both the Foundation and the League. 6PM 227-8408
- 16 Farmer's Market, Noon—4PM Grove Park
- 19 Commissioners Meeting, 7 PM City Hall.
- 20 **RBHA Board Meeting 8AM All Saints Church. All are welcome.**
- 20 Seaside Train Show. Over 150 tables of trains and train related items. Operating layouts. RB Convention Ctr 10AM—4PM. Fee.
- 22 Board of Adjustment, 7 PM City Hall.
- 23 Farmer's Market, Noon—4 PM Grove Park
- 25 RB Historical Society book signing & lecture by Michael Morgan, author of Rehoboth Beach: a History of Surf and Sand. 7PM at the Museum. 227-7310
- 27 "Age of Aquarius" Annual Variety Show by Cape Henlopen Senior Center. 7PM \$8. At Epworth UM Church on Holland Glade Road. CHSC 227-2055
- 27 Art Preview Party for LottoHEART at CAMP Rehoboth. 227-5620 www.camprehoboth.com
- 28 "Age of Aquarius" 2PM \$8. At Epworth UM Church on Holland Glade Road. CHSC 227-2055
- 30 Farmer's Market, Noon—4 PM Grove Park

June

- 2 Farmer's Market, Noon—4 PM Grove Park
- 5 Commissioners Workshop, 9 AM. City Hall.
- 5 CDP Public Information Session by the Planning Commission. 7PM City Hall
- 7-13 Downtown Rehoboth Restaurant Week sponsored by RB Main Street 227-2772 3-course prix-fixe meals at more than 20 eateries. Indulge! www.downtownrehoboth.com
- 8 Planning Commission Meeting, 6PM. City Hall
- 9 Farmer's Market, Noon—4PM Grove Park
- 11 RB Historical Society Presentation by sand pail collector Bob Smith. 7PM at the Museum. 227-7310
- 3 Commissioners Workshop, 9 AM. City Hall.
- 3-4 CAMP Rehoboth's Whole Lotta Love Weekend! www.camprehoboth.com
- 3 LottoHEART event with artworks by 200+ artists and distributed in a lottery. CAMP Rehoboth 227-5620
- 4 LOVE Dance at RB Convention Center. CAMP Rehoboth 227-5620
- 4 **FIREWORKS 2008 Independence Day Celebration!** Approx. 9:15 p.m. Sit on the beach, relax and enjoy! Sponsored by RB Main Street with donations from the citizens and businesses of Rehoboth. RBMS 227-2772
- 13 Planning Commission Meeting, 6PM. City Hall
- 7 Farmer's Market, Noon—4 PM Grove Park
- 7-8 60th Annual Cottage Tour. See the unique homes & gardens of the Rehoboth area. 10—3PM each day. \$20. RAL 227-8404
- 14 Farmer's Market, Noon—4 PM Grove Park
- 16 RB Historical Society lecture on status of archaeological dig at Avery's Rest. 7PM at the Museum. 227-7310
- 16 Cinema by the Surf. FREE outdoor movie: "Footloose" at the RB Bandstand. Dusk. RBFS. 645-9095
- 17 Commissioners Meeting, 7 PM City Hall.
- 18 CDP Public Hearing for Planning Commission. 10AM at RB Fire Station Hall Rehoboth Ave
- 21 Farmer's Market, Noon—4 PM Grove Park
- 23 AUCE Pancake & Sausage Breakfast, 8-11AM. \$5 Cape Henlopen Senior Ctr.
- 24 **RBHA Forum — "Meet the Candidates" 7PM Location not determined. Public invited.**
- 27 Board of Adjustment, 7 PM City Hall.
- 28 Farmer's Market, Noon—4 PM Grove Park
- 31-August 1 RB Historical Society Gala themed "All Aboard" celebrating the railroad & RR station. 227-7310

July

- 3 Commissioners Workshop, 9 AM. City Hall.
- 3-4 CAMP Rehoboth's Whole Lotta Love Weekend! www.camprehoboth.com
- 3 LottoHEART event with artworks by 200+ artists and distributed in a lottery. CAMP Rehoboth 227-5620

All activities dates & times are subject to change and to author error! Check with venue.

Rehoboth Beach Volunteer Fire Company fund raising starts mid-June—July.

All fundraising by the RBVFCo is made through the US Mail.

(Phone solicitations are by national groups where donations do not support our local fire company.)

RBVFCo 227-8400

RB Bandstand Performances
June 19 — August 29

Full schedule and more at <http://www.rehobothbandstand.com>



Local vegetables, fruits, cheeses, herbs and more....

Rehoboth Beach Farmers' Market

Tuesdays
Noon—4PM
rain or shine.

www.rbfarmersmarket.com

City Hall Office Hours
Mon-Fri 8:30 – 4:30

June-July-August Administrative Offices open every Saturday 8:30 AM—Noon

September—May Administrative Offices open first Saturday of each month 8:30 AM—Noon

Phone: (302) 227-6181

PROFILE: REHOBOTH BEACH MAIN STREET

The Rehoboth Beach Homeowners' Association is a long time member of Main Street. We thought it would be a good opportunity to sit down with the Executive Director, Fay Jacobs, and learn about the organization.

Q. What is Rehoboth Beach Main Street?

Fay: Main Street is a non-profit organization, committed to preserving our unique seaside community and devoted to keeping Downtown Rehoboth economically vibrant and looking great. We are a *membership organization of merchants, business owners, residents and visitors who love downtown* Rehoboth and want to keep it a real hometown and a thriving resort community. RBMS is an architectural incentive program, a tourism organization, a fundraising event producer and a marketing and communication organization for downtown Rehoboth Beach

Q. How Does Main Street achieve these goals?

Fay: Look for us organizing events to bring shoppers, diners and visitors downtown to spend money in our local economy. Some examples are our annual July 4th Fireworks, our Mardi Gras celebration, Oktoberfest, the hugely popular Chocolate Festival, our upcoming Restaurant Week, (June 7-13) and our Holiday celebrations, to name a few.

In addition, we have Economic Programs that support independent businesses and locally owned franchises – so money spent here stays here in our local economy. Some of our initiatives are the Downtown Gift Certificates, Cable-TV ads in Washington, Maryland and Pennsylvania, Tourism and Economic Development Programs, lobbying/grant writing for State, Federal and private funding, plus retail or small business seminars to help our business community. We also serve as the liaison between the business community and City of Rehoboth Beach. Downtown residents are invited to check our website and sign up for our e-mail newsletter.

www.downtownrehoboth.com

Of special interest to a lot of homeowners in town is our affiliation with the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Main Street encourages a preservation ethic in town, with a sense of history, and renovation/restoration programs to enhance buildings, signage and streetscapes in our downtown commercial district. We do this by providing sign and façade grants to businesses, sponsor the Cottage and Town Awards (which we invite downtown residents to participate in), help with the lamppost banners on Rehoboth Avenue, and provide input to the City on streetscapes, the new bandstand, and the municipal complex.

Q. Who benefits from Main Street's efforts?

Fay: You do!!! We believe that downtown businesses, commercial property owners, homeowners, residents, area banks, realtors, contractors and others are the benefactors of all our efforts. This is everybody's hometown and we are working to keep it thriving and looking good.

Q. Who is on the Board of Main Street?

Fay: The Board is made up of local merchants and business people. Currently serving on the Board are:

President - Alex Moore, Avenue Inn and Beach View Hotel

Vice President - Justin Healy, Ocean Atlantic

Treasurer - Kathy McGuinness, City Commissioner, Long and Foster and The Bootlegger

Board Members

Clint Bunting, Penny Lane

Pat Coluzzi, City Commissioner and Coluzzi Consulting

Darryl Ciarlante, Dos Locos Stone Grill

Drexel Davison, Bad Hair Day?

Sabrina Hill, Atlantis Hotel and Atlantic Management

Chad Moore, The Bellmoor Inn

Jeff Gosnear, Grotto Pizza

Alex Yearley, Community Pride Financial Services

Q: How can our members find out about what is going on in town?

Fay: Our Web site is a one stop shop for all activities in town – Main Street's events plus lots more going on downtown. We have a community calendar of events, a listing of all events we are involved in along with a clickable link to all the details of that event, maps, directions, links to other sites, as well as a full listing of all the shops and restaurants in town along with links to their sites. We keep the site updated with restaurant and retail specials from our members. In addition, look for our summer discount coupon book – with great values! And don't forget to pick up our Foodfinder Map – perfect to give to houseguests or to use yourself!

See you downtown!

Although it didn't come up in our interview, Fay is justifiably proud of the recent award Main Street received from the National Trust Main Streets Center, the organizing body for Main Street members across the nation. An excerpt of the Press Release is on the next page.

Neighbors – A Look at Our Community

* * *

Country Club Estates

This is the first of several articles on the neighborhoods of Rehoboth Beach to be published in the RBHA Newsletter. If you had the pleasure (or maybe you did not think of it as a pleasure) to study Latin, you soon learned that Gaul is divided into three parts. Rehoboth Beach is considerably smaller than Gaul. However, it has more parts including the Pines, South Rehoboth, Schoolvue, Country Club Estates, and a commercial district.

This article is about Rehoboth's youngest neighborhood, Country Club Estates (CCE). Until the 1960's the area that is now CCE was occupied by the greens and fairways of the Rehoboth Beach Country Club. And before there was a golf course, the area that is now CCE, along with the most of the land between Rehoboth Avenue and Silver Lake, was known as Rehoboth Heights. Rehoboth Heights was originally outside the city limits of Rehoboth Beach.

The old club house, located on Scarborough Avenue, was a popular social venue for many years. In 1966, the country club moved across Route 1 and is now called the Rehoboth Beach Yacht and Country Club.

After the golf course relocated, the area known as CCE was divided into approximately 330 lots for development by the Serca Land Company. Among the unique features of that development was the fact that CCE became the only neighbor-

hood to have all utilities placed underground. Also unique to CCE is the fact that it is the only area of the City with a property owners' association whose membership is a mandated part of the deed for all owners in the development. Dues for membership in the Country Club Estates Property Owners' Association are currently \$10.00 per year. Dues are used for a variety of activities including contributions to local groups such as the library and Main Street (fireworks); neighborhood improvements like the Silver Lake playground; and the annual CCE meeting and picnic held every September.

CCE encompasses a major portion of the southwestern portion of the City bounded roughly by State Road, Rehoboth Avenue, Scarborough Avenue, and Silver Lake. Most Rehoboth Beach streets are laid out in a grid pattern. Not so in CCE. Streets that are parallel in other parts of town intersect in CCE. Thus, in CCE you can meet someone who lives at the corner of Laurel and Hickman or the corner of Hickman and Stockley.

The connecting street for the neighborhood, aptly named Country Club Drive, is a horseshoe shaped road that winds from Silver Lake up to Rehoboth Avenue and back to Silver Lake. On the north end of the Country Club Drive loop are the Scarborough Village Condominiums which during the past year underwent a complete exterior refurbishing and are now getting new landscaping.

— Charlie Brown

MAIN STREET PRESS RELEASE

The National Trust Main Streets Center presented Rehoboth Beach Main Street Inc. of Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, with one of the five 2009 Great American Main Street Awards (GAMSA) during its annual National Main Streets Conference in Chicago on March 2, 2009. Rehoboth Beach Main Street Inc. has been working in partnership with the state of Delaware, local residents, property owners, the business community, and others in the city to spur reinvestment, support historic preservation, and grow the local economy by keeping local businesses busy throughout the year—not just during the summer tourism season.

The GAMSA's recognize exceptional accomplishments in revitalizing Amer-

ica's historic and traditional Main Street commercial districts. Since the organization's inception in 1996, Rehoboth Beach Main Street (RBMS) has attracted 16 net new businesses; overseen the creation of 95 net new jobs; spurred the rehabilitation of 56 historic structures; and has experienced \$38 million in public investment and \$41 million in private investment. The vacancy rate of the seven-block district has dropped 7 percent and RBMS stepped up an aggressive marketing campaign to help almost all district businesses survive a recent \$33 million, four-year street improvement project.

"Rehoboth Beach Main Street proves that vacation destinations can be as exciting during the off season as they are

during the high-tourist season and that cash registers can ring and hotels can be filled for 12 months a year," said Doug Loescher, the director of the National Trust Main Street Center. "Incentives like sign and building improvement grants have contributed to Rehoboth Beach's small-town charm, preserved its seaside heritage, and enhanced the special sense of place that residents and tourists cherish."

A national jury composed of previous award winners, community development professionals, representatives from government and foundations, and journalists who are active in community economic development and historic preservation evaluated the semifinalists and selected the five winners.

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HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION
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REHOBOTH BEACH, DE 19971



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Rehoboth Beach Homeowners' Association Newsletter

May 2009

RBHA Calendar 2009

Saturday, January 17
9 AM Board Meeting

Saturday, February 21
9 AM Board Meeting

Saturday, March 21
9 AM Board Meeting

Saturday, April 18
10 AM General Membership Meeting

Saturday, May 16
9 AM Board Meeting

Saturday, June 20
8 AM Board Meeting

Friday, July 24
7 PM *Meet the Candidates* Night*

Saturday, August 15
8 AM Board Meeting

Saturday, September 19
9 AM Board Meeting

Saturday, October 17
10 AM Annual Membership Meeting
Board Meeting follows

Saturday, November 21
9 AM Board Meeting

Saturday, December 19
9 AM Board Meeting

All meetings are open to the public and are held at All Saints Episcopal Church, first block of Olive Avenue unless noted otherwise.

* Location to be determined.