



RBHA News

May 22, 2009

Feature Article

"TEMPERANCE FOUNTAIN" ADDED TO NATIONAL REGISTER

The sky was blue and the air was warm and dry on the Boardwalk at Rehoboth Avenue. You'd probably want a drink of water, if you'd been strolling the boards. And the water fountain is there and operating. In fact, according to Evelyn Thoroughgood, it has been operating non-stop since it was originally installed in 1929, including hurricanes, the Nor'easter of '62, and the major snow storm of 1987.



Evelyn Thoroughgood (Left) & Mayor Sam Cooper (Right)

On May 21st the City's revered "temperance fountain" was added to the National Register of Historic Places. Timothy Slavin, Director of Historical and Cultural Affairs and stand-in for Governor Jack Markell, made the official proclamation. He gave credit to the equally revered Mrs. Thoroughgood saying, "When I took over this office four years ago, the first call I got was from Evelyn Thoroughgood. She said 'we're going to do this, right?' I said 'we're going to do it!'"

Mayor Cooper, who received the official proclamation, also recognized Mrs. Thoroughgood. He said, "Clearly, without her we would never be recognized in such a grand way."



Mayor Sam Cooper & Tim Slavin (Right)

Mr. Slavin noted the National Register of Historic Places is the nation's official list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and even objects deemed worthy of preservation because of the significance they play in American History, Architecture, Archeology, engineering and other subjects. He went on to say that Delaware already has 661 designated historic places; they include All Saints Episcopal Church on Olive Street, Fort Miles in Henlopen State Park, and the Lightship Overfalls.



Evelyn Thoroughgood & the Temperance Fountain

Mrs. Thoroughgood also spoke. She traced the history of the Women's Temperance Union of Delaware from its inception in 1876 and how the organization later inserted the word Christian in its title. Then she spoke about the fountain. She described a wooden trap door at the rear of its base; she said it has been there since the fountain was erected in 1929. She said in those days the City did not have electric refrigeration. She went on, when the ice man made his rounds to the businesses at the circle, he would stop at the fountain, open the trap door and drop ice in there. So, you always got ice water at the fountain. As is her style, Mrs. Thoroughgood closed her remarks with this statement, "I'm Delaware born, Rehoboth bred, and scrapple fed!"

Among the various dignitaries present was Sen. George Bunting, Rep. Pete Schwartzkopf. Besides Mayor Cooper, Commissioners Paul Kuhns, Pat Coluzzi, and former Commissioner Bob Derrickson were present. Gov. Markell was unable to attend because of a last minute trip to Washington related to state efforts to maintain General Motors presence in Delaware.

City News

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING

Last week RBHA News reported the details of a letter to the Board of Commissioners concerning potential election problems. At its May 15, 2009 Regular Meeting the Board of Commissioners the organization's letter was read. The City Solicitor noted that the issue was "interesting" and was assigned to research the matter.

In other Board of Commissioners action an extensive report on ocean outfall waste water disposal and cost was made by Rick Copithorn of Sterns and Wheeler. Differing methodologies, including completely burying the pipe during construction and laying it into the ocean with a minimum of surface disruption was described. A special pipe that is corrosion resistant but expensive would be used. Sand residue from the project could possibly be used as further beach replenishment. The cost estimate is more than \$35 million, a likely 110% increase (a little over double) in wastewater billing for the average user. Mr. Copithorn noted that the city is still "on track" as far as a time line, but that a decision on which method, ocean outfall or spray irrigation, must be made soon. Drawing comparisons is delayed because no one seems to have a sense of comparable costs for spray irrigation or knows what the County Council will do. A report from the county's consulting engineers is due soon. Commissioner McGuinness' raised a question about other ocean outfalls being shut down. Mr. Copithorn responded that outfalls still are being constructed and renovated throughout the country, save Florida where they have caused problems with the coral reef. Other Commissioners expressed concern that the City may be left as the sole user, if the County Council decided to not participate with the City in any discharge into the ocean and would instead withdraw from the Rehoboth sewer district with the result that costs to build an ocean outfall will be higher than anticipated.

Phase I of the Boardwalk reconstruction is complete. Phase II will be much more complicated and costly. Fortunately, federal stimulus funds will cover these costs and accelerate completion considerably. The South end will begin at Prospect on 09/08/09 and the North end will begin at Rehoboth Av. Immediately after Sea Witch on October 27, 2009.

Commissioner Barbour did not attend the meeting.

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Information Booth on the Boardwalk at Delaware Avenue.

Community News

BOARWALK INFORMATION BOOTH

The Information Kiosk, on the boardwalk at Delaware Ave. next to Funland, will open Saturday, May 23. The booth provides information to the public from 10 am to 5 pm daily, except Tuesdays. The City sponsors the kiosk and it is run by Main Street with help from the Village Improvement Association.

In addition to answering questions from the public, hand outs are Available, including maps, coupon books, sample menus from downtown restaurants, retail specials, WiFi locations, schedules for DART bus service, jolly trolley and the ferry.

Other Community News

NEW RESTAURANTS

Four new restaurants (at least!) have recently opened in town.

Hobos Restaurant -- Executive Chef Gretchen Hanson describes her culinary style as "ecofusion" with a mixture of Mexican, European and Mediterranean influences using locally grown produce. Hobos Restaurant & Bar is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner, seven days a week, dine-in and takeout, indoor and outdoor dining along Baltimore Ave in SOBs former space. Thursdays, 6-9 pm, Vicki Dee entertains. 302-226-2226.

Rehoboth Ale House -- 100 beer styles being served at the new Rehoboth Ale House at 15 Wilmington Avenue, former site of Sea Breeze and Rams Head restaurants. Affordable, casual lunch and dinner menu. Open daily. 302-227-2337.

Rigby's Restaurant -- Located at the site of Partners, this eatery and bar at 404-A Rehoboth Avenue intends to use its patio area behind the restaurant to good effect. Open daily. 302-226-0207.

Salt Air -- Old friends, new gig for long-time restaurateur Jonathan Spivak and chef Nino Mancari who do it again at the 50 Wilmington Avenue location of the former Fusion restaurant. Open Thursday through Sunday it features "great food made with love." 302-227-2444

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

The following is an informative excerpt from the most recent Neighborhood Watch bulletin.

"Another piece of information that I wanted to share with the community is in regards to the police cars that are frequently seen parked along Rehoboth Avenue near the circle and drawbridge. Some people have criticized this without even asking why officers are sitting there. Contrary to the belief of some, the RBPD does not use the same approach as some towns such as Camden and Harrington. Our officers are not operating a speed trap and our traffic enforcement records show that speeding is not a big problem on Rehoboth Avenue since the circle was installed.

"Everyone is reminded that the police car is a police officer's "office" equipped with a mobile computer allowing officers to complete paperwork, etc. in the car as part of their duties. Officers can also use their computers to monitor the current status of registration and insurance information of vehicles traveling on city streets. This allows officers to keep improperly registered and uninsured vehicles off the road, which is a benefit to both residents and visitors alike.

"Another benefit is that a person entering town intent on committing a crime may be deterred from doing so once they see a police officer sitting there. The fact that crimes occurring in the high crime areas nearby do not spill into town shows our presence is working.

For further details visit the website: www.rehobothwatch.com. Or, even better, go to the website and join up for Neighborhood Watch; that way you'll receive the latest information directly!

Community Calendar

REHOBOTH BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY EVENTS

Two exiting exhibits are open for Memorial Day weekend to kickoff the RBHS schedule of events this summer: "Buckets of Fun: Vintage Sand Pails and Other Beach Toys" and "Vietnam Mailbag: Voices from the War 1968-72." M -- F 10:00 to 4:00; Wknds 11:00 to 3:00. Admission. 227-7310

REHOBOTH ART LEAGUE MEMBERS' EXHIBIT

June 5 though July 19 -- The 36th Annual Member's Craaft Exhibit is the next big event for the Rehoboth Art League. The exhibit will feature the works of 234 member-artists. Reception Friday, June 5th 5 -- 7pm. <http://www.rehobothartleague.org/>

RBHA News is the product of more than one person. Much of the content and format is by Hoyte Decker. Additional content and editing are by Linda Kauffman. Some articles are written by other members, while other stories are from a variety of sources.

RBHA News is a publication of the Rehoboth Beach Homeowners' Association

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