

TOWN OF HENLOPEN ACRES — September 2013 Newsletter

Neighbors:

At the September 9th organizational meeting, my fellow Commissioners elected me Mayor of the Town of Henlopen Acres for a second year. I appreciate the vote of confidence given to me, and I consider it an honor and privilege to serve as your Mayor. The following appointments were also renewed for another year:

President pro tempore—Winnie Kee
Treasurer—David Lyons
Secretary—Paddy Richards

David L. Hill

BRIDLE PATHS

When Col. Corkran developed Henlopen Acres as a “Seashore Residential Park” he designed nearly every parcel to include access to a rear bridle path. Today’s town hall and maintenance building were once the location of horse stables. As time passed the bridle paths; Holly Walk, Greenway, Gypsy Lane, Indian Trail, Fox Run, Willow Bend, Point O’Woods, Beach Path, Bayberry Path, Pines’ End and Brightwater Ride; also became easements for utility companies to install electric, telephone and eventually cable TV. The use of the utility easement would preserve the street vistas without the interference of utility poles and wires. The bridle paths are each individual owners property for use as stated in the Town Code. Today our Town Code states that bridle paths may be used by the residents and the owners of property in Henlopen Acres as bridle paths, for the purpose of removing brush and for passage; however, residents and property owners are prohibited from erecting hedges, fences or other improvements within the bridle path. No vehicles are permitted on the bridle path without the permission of the Town.

ANNUAL ELECTION RESULTS

With the closing of the candidate declaration period, only two persons filed their intent to be candidates for the two open seats on the Board of Commissioners. Therefore in accordance with the Town Charter, Frank Jamison and David Lyons were deemed elected and were sworn in to office on Monday, September 9th.

Volume 13, Issue 3

Mayor:

David Hill

Commissioners:

Andrew Brittingham

Frank Jamison

Winifred Kee

David Lyons

Beatrix Richards

John Staffier

Town Hall

104 Tidewaters

Hours: M-F 9-4:30

• 302-227-6411

• 302-227-3978 Fax

• 302-542-3323 Security

• townhall@henlopenacres.com

• henlopenacres.delaware.gov

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Planning Commission
To be determined

Board of Commissioners
Quarterly Meeting
October 11, 2013 10:00 am

Board of Commissioners
Special Meeting
December 13, 2013 10:00 am

Board of Commissioners
Quarterly Meeting
January 10, 2014 10:00 am

Board of Adjustment
As needed

TOWN HALL HOLIDAY CLOSINGS:

Monday, October 14th
Monday, November 11th
Thursday, November 28th
Friday, November 29th
Wednesday, December 25th
Wednesday, January 1, 2014

Autumn Fires,

by Robert Louis Stevenson

In the other gardens
And all up the vale,
From the autumn bonfires
See the smoke trail!

Pleasant summer over
And all the summer flowers,
The red fire blazes,
The grey smoke towers.

Sing a song of seasons!
Something bright in all!
Flowers in the summer,
Fires in the fall!

**Fall begins on
September 22nd**

EVACUATIONS

If you have a special need such as wheelchair, oxygen, etc. please let Security know, so that we can all be prepared in case of emergency.

DOGS

Please remember State law dictates dogs must be kept on a leash when off of your property. And please clean up after you dog!

Town Directory

There have been several property sales in the last six months.

Stop in to town hall for an updated Directory

PARTY PARKING

If you are planning an event at your residence, please contact Security for questions on parking.
302-542-3323

New Bird Sightings:
Great Horned Owl
Yellow Warbler

LEAF COLLECTION

As autumn approaches and the leaves begin to fall, please remember:

The Town will collect leaves, grass cuttings, pine needles, tree trimmings and branches less than four inch in diameter and four feet in length and separated by category of leaves and sticks/branches.

Large or unsorted piles of debris, that require more than 15 minutes will be charged to the property owner at \$75. per hour

Amended Ordinance

§130-37.B of the Zoning Code

This amendment permits the Town Manager to grant continued extensions for building permits with good cause, eliminating the Board of Adjustment from the extension process.

Appointments to Audit Committee

Barry Hale, 37 Pine Reach reappointed
Robert Moltz, 62 Pine Reach appointed
John Talbott, 41 Rolling Road appointed

Appointment to Board of Adjustment

Marshall Jones, 31 Rolling Road, reappointed for a 3 yr. term
Kathy McGuinness, 6 Broad Hollow appointed for a 3yr .term

Appointment to Environmental Approval Committee

Herb Wilgis, 35 Pine Reach, reappointment for 3yr. term

WELCOME TO NEW PROPERTY OWNERS

5 Pine Reach
Christopher Holter
Baltimore, MD

ZONING OFFICER OFFICE HOURS

Tues & Thurs 10-12
Wed 11-2

DREDGING

Our contractor will begin to remove the dredging spoils the week of Sept. 9.

COMPHEHENSIVE PLAN 2014

The Planning Commission is continuing its work on the 2014 Comprehensive Plan update. Check website for date of next meeting.

MARINA

Look for a new rate structure for slip rentals in 2014. We do anticipate having a few slips available.

During a State of Emergency check the town website for timely updates.
henlopenacres.delaware.gov

FEE SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 1, 2013

Building Permit=Construction cost (x) 1.5%	\$50 minimum
Business License- (2014)	\$40.00
Business License – over 50 employees	\$80.00
Business License – business using heavy trucks	\$120.00
Unscheduled water shutoff/turn on	\$100.00 each
Scheduled water shutoff/turn on	\$35.00 each
Locate property markers	\$35.00 each
Rental License -	\$75.00 plus 3% of gross rentals
Lot Cleanup/excessive debris (per hour min. charge)	\$75.00

Fee Schedule, is subject to change and does not reflect all fees charged by town.

ENDANGERED SPECIES

As part of the Comprehensive Plan for 2014 and the Delaware Wildlife Action Plan, our Planning Commission was required to identify areas of Key Wildlife habitat as well as endangered species. Endangered species are categorized in two levels. Tier 1 Species are those in most need of conservation to sustain or restore their populations. Tier 1 Species that may be present in Henlopen Acres include birds such as the piping plover, ruddy turnstone and common tern and reptiles including the northern diamondback terrapin. Tier 2 Species, which are of less urgency than Tier 1 include the peregrine falcon, eastern towhee and savannah sparrow. Our key wildlife area is identified as the area between Duneway and the ocean. A complete list of possible endangered species is available at town hall.

REAL ESTATE TAX INVOICES

By now you will have received the annual real estate tax bill from the Town of Henlopen Acres. On this invoice you will see "County Assessment". This figure is calculated by Sussex County based on 1974 building construction costs. The County has not reassessed since 1974. If you make improvements to your property, when completed, the County will reassess the property, but again based on 1974 construction cost. Henlopen Acres determines the tax rate which is multiplied by the County assessment. Each year Henlopen Acres receives from the County an assessment list that we use to prepare our invoices. This details the assessment, property owners and the property's legal billing address of record. If the names or address are incorrect on your tax bill from Henlopen Acres, please contact the Sussex County Treasury Department at 302-855-7760 or go to: www.sussexcountyde.gov/e-service/propertytaxes. Henlopen Acres prepares their invoices based on the information received from Sussex County.

CONDOLENCES— Our sympathy goes out to family and friends, on the recent passing of:
Mary "Cookie" Brusnighan, 86 Tidewaters
Helen Holmgren, 61 Fields End

BUDGET

In July, the Board of Commissioners ratified the budget for the 2013-2014 fiscal year. The tax rate and water rate for 2013-2014 will remain unchanged. There is an increase in building permit costs in order to offset the increased costs of management and enforcement of the building and zoning Code. Major expenses include dredging clean up, replace our 1991 chipper truck and a replacement security vehicle.

Henlopen Acres Trivia

Did you know our own Roger Kramer, 11 Pine Reach, appeared in the 1974 version of "The Great Gatsby". Although only an extra, he is easily seen several times smoking a cigarette in the party scene upon Daisy's arrival. He says although he didn't smoke, he had to smoke 21 cigarettes until they got the scene correct.

Henlopen Acres was one of several towns featured in a 1995 book, "Our Smallest Towns" by Dennis Kitchen with an introduction by Garrison Keillor. There is nice photo with a lot of faces current and past of our towns people. Stop in town hall to take a look at it and see if there are any faces you recognize.

If you would like to receive the quarterly newsletter by email only and save the town postage, please send an email to: townhall@henlopen.acres.com. Thanks.

Town of Henlopen Acres
104 Tidewaters
Henlopen Acres, DE 19971