

TOWN OF HENLOPEN ACRES— June 2012 Newsletter

Mayor's Message:

Most of you are aware of the continuing saga with the Rehoboth Art League. The comments I hear from residents and property owners are that they are tired of it. Believe me, I am also.

The Town Commissioners do not want to discuss the Town's issues in the press. We have advertised (open to the public) scheduled meetings and any of you can request to have an item place on the agenda for discussion. The Rehoboth Art League has not requested to be heard by the Town Commissioners.

For several years, Henlopen Acres Commissioners have requested a designated parking plan for the Art League property. As of this date we have not received a plan. Recently the Commissioners appointed an event parking group. This group was charged with developing a parking plan for the entire Town to be used when any property owner, including the Art League, is hosting an event. The streets of Henlopen Acres must remain safe and open for residents and emergency vehicles.

In the past five years the Rehoboth Art League has requested and received five building permits to improve and maintain their buildings. The Town of Henlopen has never denied the Rehoboth Art League the right to apply for a building permit.

The letters and opinions written in the newspapers criticizing Henlopen Acres and making false and unkind accusations are only adding to the division of the residents of the Town. Most of these comments are being written by people that do not live here and do not know anything about us or our town. The implication and perception is that the town refuses to negotiate with the Rehoboth Art League and that I, as Mayor, should engage in discussions with Art League officials. Please understand, no Mayor has the authority to negotiate conditions of zoning for their town. The Rehoboth Art League must follow the same process all property owners do as set forth in the Town Code. The legal threats continue and are costly. If these actions continue they will make an impact on the value of our properties and on our way of life.

What makes Henlopen Acres so unique? You have been considerate of your neighbors, many of whom come only on weekends and vacations in the summer and they want to enjoy the solitude, peace and quiet. Quiet is what many appreciate, not noise all hours of the day and night. That is why we enforce the business hours, eight a.m. to five p.m. and no contractors or commercial activity on weekends. Many enjoy getting away from the busyness of the outside world. Henlopen Acres is our oasis.

Henlopen Acres Commissioners and Staff are doing their best to preserve what was entrusted to us. We are concerned for your safety and do our best to protect your investment while providing for your enjoyment and serenity. Thank you for your support and understanding.

Best wishes for a happy, enjoyable Summer!

Wanda Davis

2012 TOWN ELECTION

Anyone interested in serving on the Board of Commissioners and being on the ballot for the August 25th election, must file a letter of intent for candidacy with Town Hall

VOTER REGISTRATION

Qualified persons wishing to vote in the Town election on August 25, 2012 and have not registered in the past three years, must be do so by July 26th, 2012. A voter registration form is available on the "Forms" page of the town website or contact Town Hall.

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Mayor:

Wanda Davis

Commissioners:

David Hill

Francis J. Jamison, Jr.

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 MEETNGS:

Board of Commissioners
Quarterly Meeting
July 12, 2012 10:00 am

Board of Commissioners
Organizational Meeting
September 4, 2012 10:00 am

Environmental Approval
Committee
As needed

Board of Adjustment
As needed

Planning Commission
Meeting
To be determined

TOWN HALL HOLIDAY CLOSINGS:

Wednesday, July 4

Monday, September 3

FISCAL YEAR BUDGET 2012-2013

On Friday, June 8; the Board of Commissioners approved the budget for the fiscal year beginning July 2012. This years budget includes a property tax increase of 45 cents/\$100 of assessed value. The assessments are completed by Sussex County based on 1974 building costs.

Also included in budgeted expenses is marina dredging which will total \$198,000. In light of this major expense, Phase V of the street repair project has been deferred. Budgeted legal expenses have increased two-fold to \$50,000.

The adopted budget projects balanced operating income and expenses. Funding for the marina dredging over earmarked funds will come from reserves.

The town currently has no debt and does not foresee any in the near future.

HOUSE NUMBER

KEY TO EMERGENCY REPSONSE

Sussex County requires **house numbers** be posted conspicuously and readily recognizable from the street. The numbers on the house must be at least 4” high and in contrast to its background. Please make it easy for emergency responders to find you.

The Town welcomes Mr. Richard Kollar as the new Zoning Officer. Mr. Kollar will have office hours at town hall on Wednesday, from 11 am to 2 pm.

CONDOLENCES

Our sympathy goes out to family and friends on the recent passing of:

Mr. William Klinedinst, 2 Broad Hollow

RECENT APPOINTMENTS

Board of Adjustment: Joni Reich, Wilkes Coleman and Debra Fischer

Environmental Approval Committee: Bryce Lingo

Election Officers: Barbara Shortley, Sarah Sunderland and Ginny Daly

Board of Election: Tiffany Derrickson, Bruce Moore and Mimi Peters

Audit Committee: Ray Murphy, Terry Billingsley and Barry Hale

BURIED TANKS

As part of the Planning Commission’s work on a wellhead protection ordinance, the Town would like to know of any buried tanks on your property. Attached is a form to complete and return to town hall. Please complete as much information as possible.

NEW STREET SIGNS

As you come into town you may notice a new sign below the stop sign. This is a reminder that there is no on street parking. Streets must be remain unobstructed for emergency vehicles.

WATER DEPARTMENT

Enclosed with this newsletter is a copy of the Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2011 as required by Delaware State law.

Henlopen Acres continues to exceed water quality standards set forth by state and federal authorities.

Congratulations to the Frekko family, 8 Zwaanendael, for their recent profile in Washingtonian magazine.

DELAWARE FALSE ALARM REDUCTION PROGRAM

As of June 10, 2012 the State of Delaware requires ever property owner with a functioning security system in the State to register their alarm system. There is no cost to register your alarm system. If you are not registered with the State, please complete the registration process at <https://www.crywolf.us/delaware/> or register by phone at (877) 665-2979.

Delaware False Alarm Reduction Program was established due to the huge burden false alarms has created on law enforcement agencies. Nationwide, approximately 99% of all burglar alarms police respond to are false alarms.

By enforcing the ordinance the State’s goal is to substantially reduce the number of false alarms, thereby freeing up police to respond to emergencies. This ordinance allows charges for false alarms only. You will never be charged for an alarm that is not false. For the first three false alarm activations each calendar year, there is no fee. Additional false alarm fees escalate from \$50 to \$250.

You can prevent false alarm charges by having the alarm company contact town security first. For more information contact Lee Stewart via e-mail security@henlopenacres.com or call (302) 542-3323 weekdays only.