

TOWN OF HENLOPEN ACRES — February 2018 Newsletter

Dear Residents and Property Owners;

Happy New Year!

Winter is here. As I drove around the town last week I tried to estimate the number of people in winter residence. I came up with 104. A definite contrast to July and August week-ends when we sometimes top 800.

January brought us snow and deep freeze as evidenced by the annual bursting of water pipes. The street crew did a yeoman's job keeping the streets open. (Much better than Rehoboth! ssshhh)

There's a lot of construction going on right now despite the snow and cold. The Town will once again be working on storm drain work this spring on Tidewaters and Sandy Bottoms. Where is Sandy Bottoms? It starts as a ditch on Duneway (Ocean Drive), running between the Acres and North Shores behind homes on Tidewaters and flows into the marina and canal.

Other happenings this spring include tree planting, sprucing up the entrances and an overhaul of water plant equipment.

We hope every stays warm and we'll see you soon.

Tom Roth
Town Manager

Tree Committee Accomplishments for 2017

We were notified by the State Forest Service that Henlopen Acres will be recognized in 2018 with a Tree City USA designation.

- ◆ 1 Loblolly pine tree was planted at the marina in observance of Arbor Day
- ◆ 9 trees were planted on the easements throughout town
- ◆ 4 dead trees were removed
- ◆ 1 hazard tree was removed
- ◆ 10 trees along Tidewaters were pruned

Plans for 2018 include additional tree planting and to complete tree pruning on Tidewaters

WATER PLANT

In March we will be replacing some water distribution system equipment. This will require a shutdown of the system for several hours. It is our intention to schedule this in the late evening or early morning at a time when there will be the smallest demand for water and the least inconvenience to the residents.

As the date approaches we will contact you again to remind you of the shutdown.

State Grant

Thanks to a grant offered by the State of Delaware we are working with the engineering firm KCI to review our water plant system and develop a working asset management plan.

Volume 18, Issue 1

MAYOR:
David Lyons

Commissioners:
Andrew Brittingham
Tim Hidell
Frank Jamison
Joni Reich
Paddy 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:
Board of Commissioners
Board Meeting (if needed)
Friday March 9, 2018

Quarterly Meeting
Friday April 13, 2018

Planning Commission
To be determined

Board of Adjustment
To be determined

Tree Committee
To be determined

TOWN HALL HOLIDAY CLOSINGS:

Monday, February 19
President's Day
Friday March 30
Good Friday
Monday May 28
Memorial Day
Wednesday July 4
Independence Day

BUSINESS LICENSES

All contractors and service providers working in Town are required to have a valid business license each calendar year.

Welcome to our new property owners:

12 Rolling Road-David Kaplan & Julia Marx-Washington DC

Toys For Tots

Once again, Henlopen Acres had a successful Toys for Tots campaign. **Thanks so much to all who contributed.** The Sussex County Marine Corps League collected 14,450 toys that were distributed to 4371 children throughout Sussex County.

At the Board of Commissioners meeting on Friday January 12, 2018 the following re-appointment was made:

Planning Commission

Dick Thompson-44 Rolling Rd

Recent Amendments to the Town Code:

At the Board of Commissioners Quarterly Meeting on January 12th, the following Amendments were adopted:

Ordinance to Amend Chapter 43 Building Construction (Pile Driving) - This Ordinance prohibits pile driving between Memorial Day and Labor Day

Ordinance to Amend Chapter 16 Elections- Absentee Voting -This Ordinance conforms our Code to recently enacted State law that repealed the requirement of a notarized affidavit to obtain an absentee ballot for municipal elections.

Marina

2018 Marina renewals were sent out early due to an extensive waiting list. We expect a full marina this year so please make sure your contract renewal is returned with payment by February 28, 2018 or YOU WILL NOT be guaranteed a slip.

Henlopen Acres Sewer System

The sewer system for the Town of Henlopen Acres is owned and operated by Sussex County,

Questions/concerns	302-855-7730
Billing questions	302-855-7719
Emergencies	302-855-7379

A BIG THANK YOU to our streets department who worked tirelessly during the 2018 blizzard to make sure the roads in Town were plowed, salted and passable. We all appreciate their hard work!!

Our Deepest Sympathy to the Family of:

Walter Johnson Jr-73 Pine Reach-11/28/17

Duneway DelDot Improvements

Delaware Dept. of Transportation has made improvements to the drainage system along Duneway (Ocean Drive). The existing inlets and pipes had decayed to a dangerous state. The Town will also work to improve a related drainage ditch from Duneway to Sandy Bottoms.

KEY WILDLIFE HABITAT

Within Henlopen Acres Comprehensive Plan, Block W, the area between Duneway and the beach is designated as Key Wildlife Habitat. Key Wildlife Habitats are defined as areas that support "Species of Greatest Conservation Need". Our Comprehensive Plan list species of birds, reptiles and insects considered endangered. No further improvements to this area should be permitted. Only maintenance and repair of existing paths and structures is recommended.

As part of the Town's plan to preserve this area, a biologist from the Delaware Div. of Fish and Wildlife as well as a senior forester from the State Forest Service were invited to walk the area with the Town Manager and provide recommendations for the sustainability of this critical area.

Both professionals were surprised and fascinated that this area still existed. The review by the forester resulted in a viable and healthy assessment of the trees, while the biologist raised concern for several invasive plant species that proved to be present.

As a result of the visit, the State biologist returned to perform a more thorough examination of the area and prepared for the Town, a Management Plan identifying specific invasive species and recommendations for the eradication of these plants.

This plan has been shared with the Henlopen Acres Property Owners' Corp., who is charged with maintaining this area. The results will also be included in the next Comprehensive Plan update.