

TOWN OF HENLOPEN ACRES — May 2020 Newsletter

May 11, 2020

Dear Neighbor:

Spring has beautifully arrived in the Acres, but it is certainly a time that we have never experienced before. We hope that you are well and staying healthy.

As we write this, Sussex County is a “hot spot” for Covid-19 in the State of Delaware. A large outbreak of cases has occurred in the western part of the County in the Georgetown and Millsboro areas. Sussex County, with one-fourth of the State’s population, now has one-half of the 6,500 cases in Delaware. A team from the Centers for Disease Control is on the ground assisting State officials in stemming the outbreak which has especially affected the immigrant population in the poultry plants, landscape, and construction firms.

The good news is Governor Carney has been working hard to expand testing and contact tracing capability, and so far, hospital bed capacity has not been strained. On Friday, the Governor extended the Emergency Declaration from May 15 to May 31, and targeted June 1 as the start of Phase 1 of the recovery.

Until then, the Governor’s orders require residents to stay at home, closed non-essential businesses except for selective curbside shopping, closed beaches except for walking, halted short-term rentals, require out-of-state visitors to quarantine for 14 days, and require everyone to wear a protective mask when in public within six feet of others.

Locally, the Mayors and Town Managers of the seven coastal towns from Lewes to Fenwick are working with the Governor on how to safely open coastal beaches. Most towns are now allowing walking on the beach (no sitting or swimming) or are beginning to do so. The Governor has asked us to work with his public health advisors to develop a unified plan to open the beaches in phases that include safety protocols for distancing and masks, information that we will share with the Beach Club.

For now, the message from Dover and the doctors at Beebe Hospital is “we’re not there yet” in controlling Covid-19. So it will be a quieter Memorial Day weekend in the Acres and around Rehoboth. However, we expect further progress and loosening of restrictions to be gradually phased in over the next 30-60 days. Tom Roth and I will do our best to keep you informed and help all of us in the Acres to stay safe.

Joni Reich, Mayor

Volume 20 Issue 2

MAYOR:

Joni Reich

Commissioners:

Andrew Brittingham

Tim Hidell

Frank Jamison

Paddy Richards

John Staffier

Richard Thompson

Town Manager

Thomas Roth

Town Clerk

Lisa Michaels

Town Hall

104 Tidewaters

Hours: M-F 9-4:30 (Currently Closed)

• 302-227-6411

• 302-227-3978 Fax

• 302-542-3323 Security

• townhall@henlopenacres.com

• henlopenacres.delaware.gov

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Board of Commissioners

Budget Meeting (via

Internet)

Friday, June 12 10am

Quarterly Meeting

Friday July 10 at 10am

Planning Commission

To be determined

Board of Adjustment

As needed

Tree Committee

To be determined

TOWN HALL HOLIDAY CLOSINGS:

Monday May 25

Memorial Day

Friday July 3

Independence Day

(Observance)

Monday September 7

Labor Day

Monday October 12

Columbus Day

2020 Voter Registration & Election Information

Town elections for Commissioner positions are held every August. This year, the current 3-year terms of Commissioners Tim Hidell, Joni Reich, and John Staffier will expire. Important dates for the upcoming election are below. Property owners and residents are eligible to vote. You must be registered with the Town to vote in the election. Voter registration forms can be obtained from Town Hall or on the Town website.

Deadline to file Candidacy:
Deadline to Register to Vote:
Election Day:

Friday July 10, 2020
Thursday July 30, 2020
Saturday, August 29, 2020



Status of Town Hall

Town Hall remains closed to the public but remains operational. Town Staff are performing essential functions to ensure the Water Plant is running smoothly and to process ongoing Construction Permit and Business License requests. We are also providing lawn debris pick-ups although at a reduced level based on staffing. If you would like assistance or have a question, please call Town Hall at 227-6411 and leave a message or email: Townhall@henlopenacres.com.

Town Events

Stay tuned for a later decision on whether the Henlopen Acres **4th of July Parade** will be held this summer. We will see whether it is possible to hold the parade in a safe way with social distancing – think car caravan?

Plans are still underway by Chairs Kate Lyons and Joan Donnelly for **50th Anniversary Party** of the Town's incorporation in June 1970. Stay tuned for further details on the party to be held on Saturday, September 5th Party at the Marina over Labor Day weekend.

Sympathies to the Family of:

David C. Auten –20 Tidewaters- May 10, 2020

Welcome to our New Property Owner:

Stephan Gretz-98 Tidewaters-Elverson, PA

Rental Ordinance Hearing

The Public Hearing on amendments to the Rental Ordinance scheduled for Friday, June 12 **will need to be postponed** due to restrictions on group gatherings that will still be in place for Covid-19. We will send out notification when the Hearing is rescheduled.

Thank you to the residents who have submitted comments on the proposed amendments. The Commissioners appreciate them very much and hope every owner will submit their views to Town Hall.

Marina Update

The Town Marina is open and slip renters may bring their boats to the Marina. There currently are no State restrictions on boat use other than individuals should remain attentive to social distancing from non-family members. The Town has selected a contractor and is in the process of finalizing plans for the dredging

Security Reminder

While we have a quiet community here in the Acres, we are not immune from crime. In late April, vandals pilfered through many cars in the early morning hours and stole various items. Delaware State Police made an arrest in connection with this incident.

Please remember to lock your car doors at night and contact Security if you hear strange noises or see unusual activity. We are reviewing options to enhance security monitoring in the Acres.

Appointments

The Board of Commissioners has appointed Mindy Peele of 54 Tidewaters to serve on the Planning Commission. We thank Mindy for agreeing to serve and thank Bob Reed for his dedicated dedicated years of service on the Commission since 2012.

Marina Park

Progress continues on the new Park at the Marina. The hardscape has been installed, and work will now begin on the new landscape beds that will surround the paved areas.

