

Town of Henlopen Acres Spring 2025 Newsletter

VOLUME 26 ISSUE 1

Friends and Neighbors,

It is such a fun thing to see our town coming back to life with the arrival of Spring. Flowers are in bloom, trees are filling out, and a renewed sense of energy in the air reminds us how fortunate we are to call this place home.

With the warmer weather, it's been especially nice to see more people out and about—neighbors enjoying a walk, families spending time together over Easter break, and friends reconnecting after the winter months.

As we look ahead to summer, there is much to anticipate—longer days, Memorial Day weekend, the Fourth of July, and many opportunities to spend time together as a community. Whether at the beach, the marina, or simply around town, I hope to see more of you enjoying everything that makes this place so special.

Thank you for continuing to make our town a welcoming and vibrant community.

Wishing you all a wonderful spring and a memorable summer ahead.

Best regards,
Tim Hidell

Mayor

Tim Hidell

Commissioners

Tiffany Derrickson

Lyndie Hertrich

Alex Jacobs

Lee Raesly

Paddy Richards

John Staffier

Town Manager

Anna Fagan

Town Clerk

Andrea Harpster

Finance Manager

Katie Manieri

Public Works

Sonny McClure

Bob Ribinsky

Mike Berg

Lex Bayard

Security

Lee Stewart



Town Hall

104 Tidewaters

Open M - F 9am - 4:30pm

302-227-6411

302-542-3323 - Security

townhall@henlopenacres.com

henlopenacres.delaware.gov

Holiday Closings:

May 22 - Closing at 1pm

Memorial Day Weekend

Monday, May 25 - Closed

Memorial Day



UPCOMING MEETINGS

Tree Committee

April 24, 2026 at 1:30pm

Environmental Approval Committee

May 19, 2026 at 10am

Board of Commissioners

June 12, 2026 at 9am



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HERNANDO HITS HENLOPEN ACRES

Winter Storm Hernando left a noticeable mark on Henlopen Acres, bringing blizzard conditions unlike anything many of us have seen. Snowfall totals reached upwards of 19 inches, while high winds toppled trees and snapped utility poles. The storm even brought down the wall at the Zwaanendael entrance.

In the days that followed, the Streets team worked diligently to plow snow, clear trees from roadways, and remove debris. Neighbors looked out for one another and lent a hand where needed, from checking on homes to keeping cell phones charged. The efforts of everyone in Town made a meaningful difference in recovery.

The photos here capture just a glimpse of the storm's impact and the scale of the cleanup effort. Approximately 600 cubic yards of tree debris were removed in the first week of clean up alone. There is still work to be done, but thanks to our hardworking staff, the Town will soon be ready for the summer season ahead!



CHARTING A COURSE FOR MARINA IMPROVEMENTS

The Henlopen Acres marina was an integral part of Colonel Corkran's vision of Henlopen Acres as a seaside community. Over the years, it's remained a valued amenity for residents, offering convenient access to the Lewes-Rehoboth Canal and the beautiful waterways that make this area so special.

However, the marina has seen years of wear and tear. It now needs dredging, new docks, and replacement of failing bulkheads to bring it back into excellent condition.

An undertaking of this size requires a holistic plan for rehabilitation. To develop this plan, the Town will be forming an ad hoc committee to make recommendations for how best to move these improvements forward.



COMCAST UNDERGROUNDING PROJECT UNDERWAY

On April 6, Comcast began replacing the existing overhead cable system with a new underground network within the Town's bridle paths. Work is expected to continue through June, followed by a phased transition to the new system with limited service interruptions.

Residents can expect construction activity in bridle paths, including trenching and installation of underground cable and equipment. Comcast will restore all disturbed areas to their original condition and existing overhead lines will be removed 60–90 days after the transition is complete.

To support this work, property owners must ensure bridle paths on their property are fully cleared of brush and debris to allow access for contractors. The Town will contact residents where additional clearing is needed.

This project, funded by Comcast, will improve service reliability, reduce storm-related outages, and enhance neighborhood aesthetics through the eventual removal of overhead lines.

Further updates will be provided to residents as the project progress. Please contact Town Hall with any questions or concerns.

Arbor Day in Henlopen Acres

April 24
2026



Henlopen Acres is proud to celebrate its tenth consecutive year as a designated Tree City. As a member of the program, the Town proclaims its own Arbor Day celebration. This year's will take place on Friday, April 24, same as the national Arbor Day. The Tree Committee will celebrate the day by planting a tree.

Since its establishment in 2015, the Henlopen Acres Tree Committee has played an important role in preserving and enhancing the Town's tree canopy. Through the Committee's ongoing efforts, and with continued investment from the Town, nearly 200 trees have been planted on Town property over the past decade.



TREE CARE TIP

Trees should be pruned during their dormant period (late winter to early spring) to reduce stress and improve healing. It's wise to hire a certified arborist to do this work. They have the training to protect your tree's long-term health while pruning.

FREE TREE ASSESSMENT

As a service to residents, Cypress Tree Care will provide property owners with a **tree assessment** paid for by the Town. Cypress will inspect the trees on your property and provide you with a written evaluation that includes suggested maintenance.

Assessments will occur during the summer months. Owners do not need to be home for the assessment and may hire any firm for follow-up care.

To request this free Town service, contact Andrea at townclerk@henlopenacres.com.

PLANNING A HOME IMPROVEMENT PROJECT? KNOW THE RULES FIRST

As we head into the busy season for home improvements, the Town would like to remind residents that a building permit is required for all exterior work, including new construction, additions, alterations, and general repairs; and for interior work greater than \$1,000 or which involves electrical or plumbing.

New construction, major alterations, and certain other projects, like painting your home a new color, also require approval by the Environmental Approval Committee (EAC).

The EAC is a three-person committee appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Board of Commissioners. The EAC reviews proposed construction plans to ensure they are appropriate in design, materials, and appearance.

Before starting any work, please check with the Town Hall to confirm whether a permit or EAC approval is needed for your project. This simple step helps avoid delays or complications down the line.

REMINDER: NEW TREE ORDINANCE IN EFFECT

In January, the Board of Commissioners formally adopted a new tree ordinance that regulates the removal of canopy trees.

A permit is now required to remove any canopy tree on private property. Failure to secure a permit may result in a fine of \$750 per violation, plus \$2,000 per illegally removed Canopy Tree or ISA-calculated value of removed Canopy Tree, whichever is greater.

Avoid costly fines by securing the proper permit. Contact Anna for assistance with the process:

townmgr@henlopenacres.com

2026 DIRECTORIES NOW AVAILABLE

The Town's new resident directories are now available for pick up at Town Hall. We encourage all residents to review their listing to ensure the Town has up-to-date contact information on file.

If you need to make any updates or corrections, please contact Andrea at:

townclerk@henlopenacres.com

