

# Town of Betterton Newsletter

## Summer 2020

### From the Mayor and Council

Well, we are still working to get through this.... As we continue to learn this new landscape of the COVID – 19 viruses, we continue working to do what is deemed necessary and on advice from State and Federal Officials to protect our citizens. The Town Office continues to be closed to the Public. You can still contact the Town by phone during business hours, email to ask questions or to set up an appointment for a meeting. We will continue to hold the Mayor and Council meetings online and send notices of the logins.

On to brighter notes:

The Wheeler Avenue project is nearly complete! A few touchup items are left to finish and I understand that the landscaping will be done with the Fall planting season. This project was on the wish list of the Town for nearly 20 years awaiting funding. And with the CDBG and USDA Grants that we received, it is now off the "to do" list.

The new playground equipment for the Sixth Avenue Park is almost finished. We want to open it as soon as possible but will need to wait for State and Health Department notifications that it can be safely opened for play.

Our new Wastewater Treatment Plant is fully operational and exceeding the nitrogen and phosphorus reduction standards established by the State.

The Radar Speed signs are still seeing excessive speeds with an average of one in five exceeding the 25 MPH Speed Limit. Please ask anyone you have visiting or friends that you know, that may be exceeding the speed limit, to slow down. The possibility an accident increases as we enter the Summer season.

Kent County Parks and Recreation and the County Commissioners currently have restricted the usage of the beach to Kent County residents only. This and the other restrictions in place were done to comply with the COVID-19 orders from the State. Please abide by the restrictions for your safety.

If you haven't given the office your email, please do so. That is all for now and as always, please contact the Town Hall if you should have any questions.

Mayor Sutton

Wheeler Avenue – sidewalk before and during construction



### Dates To Remember

**Trash Pick-Up: Mondays**

**Recycling Pick-Up:  
Tuesdays**

**Yard Waste Pick-Up  
Mondays**

**The Town of Betterton will be closed in observance of the following holidays:**

**July 3rd**

Observance of  
Independence Day

**September 7th**

Labor Day

### Office Hours

**The office is currently closed due to state and federal restrictions.**

**Staff is available by phone and email during the following hours:**

**Monday, Tuesday,  
Thursday, & Friday  
8 am – 3 pm**

**Office: (410) 348-5522  
[info@townofbetterton.com](mailto:info@townofbetterton.com)**

**Water/Wastewater:  
(410) 708-0096  
[jmiller@townofbetterton.com](mailto:jmiller@townofbetterton.com)**

### Council Meetings

**Meetings are the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month.**

**Residents can attend online by going to our town website  
[www.townofbetterton.com](http://www.townofbetterton.com)  
and clicking on LIVE STREAM.**

## From the Desk of the Town Manager

One of my favorite activities as a mom is taking my children to a variety of playgrounds. Over the years, I've enjoyed seeing them get fresh air and visit new places. When we lived in Delaware, we went to every park in the area. From climbing the castle-themed playground by the Salisbury Zoo to spinning on sensory equipment at Glasgow Park or flying kites at Battery Park in beautiful Historic New Castle, we've been to them all. When we moved to Maryland 3 ½ years ago, we continued this tradition and found new parks to explore. My children have fallen in love with the playgrounds in Rock Hall and Church Hill as well as a new one north of Chesapeake City. And while we are talking about amazing playgrounds, if you haven't taken your children/grandchildren to the nautical themed play area at the Visitor's Center in Cambridge, you are missing out! But soon you won't have to leave town to find a great playground for the children in your family. The Arbor Play Area in Betterton's town park is nearing completion.

One of the benefits of being the town manager is that I get to hear people reminisce about the old days in Betterton when families would come and there were fun things to do. I also hear residents say that Betterton is now mostly retirees and they wish more families would move here. It's the goal of the town council to improve our town while keeping a small-town feel. We have sought grants that attempt to meet that goal.

One of these grant-funded projects funded by "Program Open Space" is the new Arbor Play Area. The goal was to design a tree-house themed playground that would attract families with children of all ages to come and make memories in Betterton. The new playground will be a safe place for your children or grandchildren to run, climb, and even get wet, whether they live here year-round or visit on summer weekends. And maybe along the way, we will have a few out of towners show up who love to visit playgrounds across the region. Perhaps they too will fall in love with the beautiful vista and want to make Betterton their home.

We are in the finishing stages of the playground installation and looking forward to the day when COVID restrictions are lifted and children can enjoy the new space.

We won't ever all agree on which way Betterton should move forward, but I do hope we continue to make progress. I encourage you to be a part of that process. The more people we have participating in town meetings and volunteering to serve on committees, the more we can ensure that the grants we pursue align with the desires of the residents. For my part, I promise to listen. The Jewel of the Chesapeake isn't just about the beautiful views. The most important jewels are the people who call this place home.

Elizabeth



First layer of safety surface being poured.



Photo after the safety surface was installed.

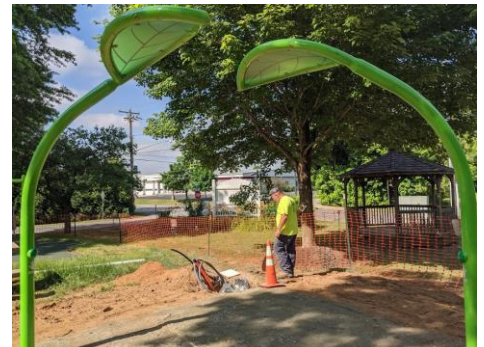


Photo of the water misters being installed.

## Census 2020 – Be counted

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I want to encourage everyone to fill out their census online at [www.2020census.gov](http://www.2020census.gov). It is important that everyone is counted so that our town can receive the full amount of funding for our population over the next 10 years. Currently, Betterton is just under a 32% response rate. The state of MD is at 66% and the goal is 100%. Your answers are confidential and cannot be shared with any other agency. It only takes 5 minutes to fill out. Encourage your neighbors to be counted.

## Betterton United Methodist Church to Begin Fundraising Campaign

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The Betterton United Methodist Church traces its history to 1869 when the congregation had its first services in the home of Littleton Crew; "Fish Hall". The current building was dedicated in 1915 and services have been continuously held there (except for the COVID-19 period) since that date.

In 2017, a campaign was begun to raise sufficient funds to restore, preserve and weatherize the Church's 23 stained glass windows. Support from the community was overwhelming. Work on the windows was completed in 2018 and a service of dedication was held on March 24 of that year.

Church members are planning a second phase of Historic Restoration by removing the crumbling stucco from exterior walls that was installed in 1933. The project will replace the stucco with siding similar to the original wood lap siding that adorned the Church when it was built. Other weatherization and indoor HVAC systems may also be included in the project.

To raise funding, Church members, the community and businesses will be contacted and grants for historic restoration projects will be sought. For more information, contact Dick Story at (410) 236-2782, [dickstory24@gmail.com](mailto:dickstory24@gmail.com)



Phase I of the Church's Historic Restoration project included the restoration and preservation of all 23 stained glass windows and has resulted in significant savings in energy costs.

Phase II will replace dangerously crumbling stucco with siding resembling that which is pictured above when the building was dedicated on January 31, 1915. The campaign has just begun.

## Help Make our Newsletter Great

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Do you have any newsworthy pictures of Betterton? We love featuring photos from around town in our quarterly newsletter. Send your best shots to [egreenwell@townofbetterton.com](mailto:egreenwell@townofbetterton.com). The deadline for all articles and photos is September 15<sup>th</sup>.

## BCDC and Betterton Heritage Museum Update

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Our sincere thanks to Helen and Joe Sanders for their mask making efforts in April and May. Helen made 40 cloth masks. The masks were donated to many Betterton residents. Neighbors helping neighbors is what makes Betterton a special place.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions and the limited number of people coming to Betterton during this time, the museum will remain closed this summer. We look forward to seeing everyone again once restrictions are eased.

## Lion's Club Awards Scholarship

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Although the COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way we have operated over the past three months, the Betterton Still Pond Lions Club has still been active. We were forced to postpone the March "Night at the Races" but we have recognized two Kent County High School students.

The Lions Club's 2020 Scholarship has been awarded to Brianna Pinder of Worton. Brianna is a 2020 graduate of Kent County High School and will be attending Johnson and Wales University in Providence, Rhode Island in the Fall. She will use the \$1,000 scholarship to begin her studies in Culinary Arts and Food & Beverage Management. The Betterton Still Pond Lions Club wishes her well.



Congratulations too, to Tyler Gregg for receiving the 2020 "Spirit Award" from the Lions Club.

Because the "Night at the Races" were cancelled, food purchased for the event was donated to the Community Center in Worton for the children's lunch program. Be watching for more information on the next race program, likely to be scheduled in November.

## Grab and Go Lunches

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Grab and Go meals are available at the Betterton Fire Hall this summer from June 29<sup>th</sup> – August 4<sup>th</sup>. All children 18 and under qualify for free meals. Pick up times are Monday - Thursday from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm. Parents may pick up the bags for their children.



## Boat Trailer Permits and Dump Tickets

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Kent county is raising the prices on trailer permits July 1<sup>st</sup>. 3-day and resident permits are now \$30. Non-resident permits are now \$75. Dump tickets are now \$55 per pack. Both trailer permits and dump tickets are available for purchase at town hall during office hours.